

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO COM-
MODORES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the Association of Ohio Commodores. Celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, the association has traveled the globe as Ohio's preeminent ambassadors to international commerce.

Founded in 1966 by Governor James A. Rhodes in honor of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie, the Ohio Commodores have served various missions around the world as official representatives of the State. From the Japanese Ambassador and the Governor of Ohio's sister province in Korea, to the Consul Generals of Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, they have acted as the official hosts to foreign dignitaries visiting Ohio.

Since its inception, the association has invited over 300 men and women to join the ranks of Commodores. Considered Ohio's "most distinguished honor," government officials, lawmakers, leaders in higher education, and business leaders have all been recognized for their contributions to the economic strength of the State.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and congratulation of the Association of Ohio Commodores, which has dedicated the past four decades to honor the finest Ohioans and ensure a bright future for the Buckeye State.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DANIEL
SKINKIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Skinkis for more than two decades of volunteer work in Southern Nevada.

Daniel Skinkis has founded several outreach programs over the past 22 years and speaks publicly each week at homeless shelters to help addicted and disenfranchised members of society turn their lives around. From 1988 to 1993, Mr. Skinkis ran a private fellowship in Henderson, NV, for young people with addictions, called Witness Outreach. In addition, Mr. Skinkis started Desert Homeless Outreach over 20 years ago as a place where homeless people talk about issues they face and work toward resolving them. Most recently, these efforts to assist the homeless community have earned Mr. Skinkis the prestigious Jefferson Award bestowed by the American Institute for Public Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Daniel Skinkis for his admirable work with the com-

munity in an effort to enrich the lives of disenfranchised and impoverished people. I wish him the best in his future efforts.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MOCK

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Mock, who has been named Historian of the Year by the Bedford County Historical Society. Bill, a Vietnam veteran and retired biology teacher from Bedford County, will be honored with this distinguished award at the Bedford County Historical Society's annual banquet in April.

Bedford County is an area rich with historical value and meaning, dating back to the revolutionary era. Bill has worked to promote it by proposing the establishment of a Bedford County historical center to exhibit historical records and artifacts from the area. As he often says of himself, Bill lives in the past. His love of history has propelled him to take on many meaningful, honorable activities to commemorate our Nation's heroes and ensure they are never forgotten.

A member of the Bedford County Historical Society, the Gettysburg Blues and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Gettysburg Camp No. 112, Bill takes immense pride in working with these organizations to preserve our Nation's history. He planned and executed the rededication of the Pennsylvania Monument in Andersonville National Cemetery for its 100th anniversary. To mark the occasion, Bill spent months researching and fundraising to reproduce the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regimental flag, which he carried in the March of Honor to the monument.

William Mock's dedication to the preservation of our local and national history is admirable, and we can hope that others will follow in his footsteps and view our history with the same pride and honor as those that came before us.

SWEARING-IN "DAISY" WITH THE
LEWISVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daisy, the most recent member of the Lewisville Fire Department in North Texas. Daisy is a 1½ year old yellow lab that was previously under the training of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. She has achieved a reputation within the community as a very capable instrument in the detection of explosives.

Daisy and Division Chief Terry McGrath trained together for ten straight weeks in Virginia. This training consisted of various conditioning and learning skills that trained both Daisy and her handler. The two were educated in the many different scenarios that could very well be encountered in the line of duty. Daisy is trained to recognize 18,000 different scents that may be linked to explosive devices.

The Lewisville Fire Department was contacted by an ATF agent in the Dallas Regional Office to see if they would participate in the program and would welcome Daisy as a valuable member of the force. Needless to say, they were more than thrilled with the opportunity to be able to provide a highly trained dog like Daisy for the safety of the entire North Texas region.

I am pleased to join in with the rest of the Lewisville Fire Department in welcoming Daisy as their latest member. Her devotion to her handler, the department and the safety of the public makes her an invaluable asset to the community.

HONORING THE OAKTON HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM'S
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Oakton High School Cougars football team, who won the 2005 Virginia High School League Group AAA, Division 6 State Championship.

On Saturday, December 10, 2005 at Darling Stadium in Hampton, the Cougars all but shut down the Landstown Eagle's infamous passing game, accumulating 401 total rushing yards against the Eagles' defense.

Led by head coach, Joe Thompson, and his assistant coaching staff, David Foley, John Gluffing, Tom Goggin, Bryan Gordon, J.J. Hetman, Brent Newell, Kolapo Olarinde, Pat Purcell, Jason Rowley, Donny Samson, Rick Wells, Joe Drewer and Packy Purcell, the Cougars trained intensively throughout a dramatic and triumphant season. The Cougars dedication and teamwork culminated in their 28-7 state title victory, the first in Oakton High School's history.

I congratulate all the talented members of the Virginia High School League Group AAA, Division 6 State Champion Cougars: Keith Payne, Thomas Rupp, Michael Lee, Handel Stephen-Dowd, Ervin Gamer, Adrien Laffitte-Smith, Donald Murphy, Brian Sweeny, Aaron Dishner, Stephen Poumaras, Mark Davis, Curtis Eward, Bradley Rhodes, Kumail Baig, Kevin Houghton, Derek Zimmerman, Tyler Morris, Ilyas Karimov, Sean Purcell, Erich Kottke, Alex Wargo, Connor Madden, David Kidwell, Trey Watts, Peyton Mahaffey, David Shumway, Dylan Grimm, Justin White, John

• 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.

Henry, Chris Rainwater, Ryan Harris, Mike Bautista, Chris Coyer, Jack Tyler, Jackson Kibler, Kevin Swanson, Taylor Naleppa, Jonathan Kedrock, Justin Otley, Josh Nelson, Mark Bleiweis, David Crain, Jim Roberts, Zachary Capozzoli, Patrick Tyler, Jeremy Rudolph, Carl Myrville, Bo Farrar, Flory Niyonkuru, Alex Hanson, Joshua Lewin, Kevin Miller, Jared Ruppert, Evan Fiore, Tim Seeger, Asif Kazmi, Gavin Wait, Jared Green, Rob Koster, Mark Larsen, Clark Scheible, Marques Wilson, Kevin Schweiker, Ryan Keely, Mike Shvenderman, Joe Sullivan, Drew Whalen, Joey McCallum, Thomas Vitale, Kevin Culkin, James Wheatley, Chad Faulkner, Michael Pournaras, Wade Reynolds, Kenny Hanson, and Morad Motamedi (Manager)

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

H.R. 609 FAILS AMERICA'S STUDENTS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in opposition to H.R. 609, the so-called "College Access and Opportunity Act," because it creates greater problems in providing financial assistance for college students, and will lead to graduates inheriting greater debt. The Republicans have chosen to neglect young Americans who need assistance with the costs of higher education. A number of academic organizations oppose this legislation including The National Education Association, the United States Student Association, and The American Federation of Teachers. The Democratic alternative to this bill helps those students and their families who cannot afford the skyrocketing costs of college tuition in America today.

This legislation is problematic because it produces a number of obstacles which could interfere with students' ability to pursue higher education. It fails to make college more affordable for Americans falling in the low- and middle-income brackets by prohibiting them from consolidating their loans while in school or during the six month grace period directly following graduation. The "College Access and Opportunity Act" also revokes a student's ability to secure a low fixed-interest rate. In addition, it bars married couples from consolidating their student loans with their spouses.

The Republicans claim they are for strengthening Pell grants when the truth is that over the last four years, their legislation has done the exact opposite. In 2000, the maximum Pell grant covered about 41% of tuition expenses. Now, in 2006, the maximum Pell grant barely covers a third of tuition expenses. Students are unable to cover this gap. This bill creates problems in the long run which will prevent millions of students from attending college simply because they cannot afford it and because the Republicans in Congress have refused to make higher education a priority.

Students and their families deserve more than what this resolution offers. That is why I will be supporting the more comprehensive approach found in the Democratic alternative, the Miller-Kildee-Scott-Davis-Grijalva amendment.

The Democratic alternative offers many benefits to college students and their families. It cuts the college loan fixed interest rate in half from 6.8% to 3.4%. This will provide protection to students who use loans to finance their education. The Democratic alternative also provides funding for programs that support low-income black and Hispanic students.

Today nearly two-thirds of all American college students graduate with debt—up from one-third in 1993—and a typical student borrower graduates from college with \$17,500 in debt. The Republicans in Congress have taken \$12.5 billion dollars out of student aid accounts to pay for their tax cuts and now, with this bill, students will suffer the burden of higher interest rates, new fees, and more debt while in school and after graduation. Congress should create more opportunity for America's student, not less. H.R. 609 hurts students and their families who cannot afford the cost of higher education.

TRIBUTE FOR JOSE "LEFTY" MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose "Lefty" Martinez, a lifelong resident of Laredo, for his bravery and service to the nation during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Jose Martinez passed away recently on March 23rd, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas.

There were many that lost their lives during World War II, however, Lefty Martinez's valiant return reminded us of the sacrifices made in defending our freedom and liberty. It was the call to service that drew Lefty at the age of seventeen. It was March 1946, when Lefty had enlisted in the Marine Corps, which took him to the Barbers Point Naval Air Station in Hawaii, working on C-46 and C-54 aircraft transports.

When his two-year tour was cut to fifteen months, however, he remained with aviation for years after he left the Marine Corps as a civilian contractor. Veterans' training benefits gave him the opportunity to receive federal licensing as an aircraft mechanic, enabling him to serve all over the United States and in places such as the Philippines, Thailand, France, and Vietnam. In Vietnam, he lost half of his civilian contract crew during the 1968 Tet Offensive, and shortly afterwards, he returned back to Laredo, Texas.

In Laredo, Lefty joined veteran organizations and was the commander of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1908. He also was a former member of the American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League and Vietnam Veterans of America. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Assembly No. 2565, and a former member of the Laredo Evening Lions Club and the Webb County Heritage Foundation.

What I remember about Lefty was his dedication to his country. In the spare time he had, he always stopped by the middle and high schools to talk about his war experiences, and he showed the importance in serving one's country with honor and dignity. It is a great loss to this country to have lost such a great veteran, and I hope we will continue to treat

our veterans today with the respect they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Jose "Lefty" Martinez.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATHY A. BATTERMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy L. Batterman who became one of the first crew members for "Flight for Life" and was the first certified flight nurse in the United States. Mrs. Batterman's life was tragically cut short in the line of duty when, on April 4, 1999, the "Flight for Life" helicopter crashed in Indian Springs Nevada during a bizarre snowstorm after transporting a patient to a Las Vegas hospital.

During her career Kathy flew over 3,000 rescue flights and is credited with saving thousands of lives. Kathy epitomized excellence in all aspects of nursing. Not only was she one of America's premiere flight nurses, she was a certified flight registered nurse, an advanced trauma specialist, and Nevada's first pre-hospital nurse practitioner. Kathy was a respected educator and a pioneer of EMS education in Nevada. Her contagious energetic spirit, encouraging smile, and enthusiasm inspired many others to do their best. Kathy was also instrumental in placing a second "Flight for Life" base in Pahrump, Nevada recognizing how crucial the response time is for those needing emergency care in the outlying rural communities around Las Vegas. Not only was she a magnificent flight nurse, she was also a caring and devoted wife and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Kathy A. Batterman for her dedication to providing emergency medical service to the Las Vegas and outlying community. Her death is a profound loss to the community and the medical profession.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF JAMES ANTHONY ZACK, A CHAMPION OF LABOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of James Anthony Zack, who was truly a champion for the rights of working people in northeast Ohio and a proud and dedicated Teamster.

Jim served for 18 years as a Union Trustee, Vice President, and in June of 1997, was elected President of Teamsters Local #1164. He was constantly working to further his knowledge of the issues and areas of concern to Ohio's working families. In 2002, he received a certificate in labor relations from Cleveland State University.

A 1958 graduate of Elyria High School, Jim had over 25 years in sales at Pepsi Cola of Elyria, close to 23 of which were as a driver salesman. Additionally, Jim owned and operated his own businesses as a distributor for 7-Up and Pepsi.

Well liked by those who knew him, Jim truly brightened and enriched the lives of all those around him. His devotion to the Teamsters and the members he worked so hard to represent was matched only by his love and devotion to his family and faith. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Barb, children, Jim Jr. and Debbie, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the life of James Anthony Zack. His dedication on behalf of working people has served to uplift our entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BASIC HIGH SCHOOL'S MARINE CORPS JROTC PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANTS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a special group of high school students in Henderson, NV, the members of Basic High School's Marine Corps JROTC

Basic's JROTC unit was activated in 1977 and is one of over 200 plus units sponsored by the United States Marine Corps. Basic's MCJROTC has been designated as a "Naval Honor School" 14 times and has received State and national recognition and honors. The senior marine instructor and marine instructors are retired marines with over 80 years of combined military service and 30 years at Basic High School.

The mission of the MCJROTC is to develop young leaders and responsible citizens with respect for constituted authority, to help individuals strengthen character and form habits of self-discipline, and to learn the importance of national security in a democratic society. Students that participate in the MCJROTC program at Basic learn self-discipline, self-confidence, personal responsibility and build their character.

Basic's MCJROTC students participated in the Western United States National Drill Meet on April 1, 2006 and were deemed the overall winner for the West Coast. Other awards earned included: first place in Armed Inspection, second place in Unarmed Inspection, first place in 4 Person Unarmed, fifth place for 4 Person Unarmed, third place in Unarmed Inspection, second place for Color Guard Regulation, first place for 4 Person Armed, first place in Unarmed Exhibition, second place in Color Guard Regulation, fourth place for 4 Person Armed, second place for Armed Inspection, third place for Unarmed Exhibition, fourth place for Color Guard Inspection, Outstanding Unarmed Commander Cadet.

Basic's MCJROTC students have won this prestigious championship twice in the last 4 years. Their commitment to this important program and devotion to excellence has helped them achieve these high honors, and I am proud to recognize them today for their accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I salute the MCJROTC students at Basic High School.

GENERAL AVIATION SECURITY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, the American people should be outraged to learn that all it takes to get on an on-demand charter flight at a general aviation airport is a credit card. You don't have to go through an x ray machine. No one is going to look into your carry-on bags. You and your friends can literally bring anything you want to on one of these flights and no one is going to stop you. According to the charter aviation industry this is actually a good thing and it represents advancement in security from the days where cash could get you a seat on one of these planes. And Mr. Speaker, I'm not talking here about small prop planes used by recreational pilots. Jets in the charter industry are larger, faster, and heavier than they used to be, therefore making them more like their commercial counterparts than ever before.

One of the ten busiest general aviation airports in the country is in my district. Teterboro Airport is only 12 miles from New York City and handles a volume of over 200,000 flights every year, nearly equal to the number of flights at JFK International Airport. So far this year there have been three incidents at the airport, including one where a car crashed through the airport's chain link fence on January 12th. An 18-year-old driver lost control of her Jeep and ran through the cyclone fence that separates a major roadway from parked planes. After going through the fence, the car actually crashed into a fully fueled plane parked on the tarmac causing damage to both the car and the plane. For those who have never driven by Teterboro, I'm sure it seems outrageous that a car could crash through the airport's fence and hit a plane. But it's true. This incident raises a question that all of us should be asking ourselves: If an 18-year-old can accidentally breach the security fence and drive straight onto the tarmac, into a fully fueled aircraft, at one of the busiest general aviation airports in the country, what could a motivated psychopath or terrorist do? Mr. Speaker, this incident speaks to the need for much greater security at general aviation airports.

We know that our Nation remains an inviting target for terrorists and we would be foolish not to assume they are looking for vulnerabilities. If a terrorist had a chemical or biological weapon and needed an airborne delivery mechanism, it would be shamefully easy to command an aircraft at an airport like Teterboro, fly that plane over New York City, less than 5 minutes flight time away, and deploy that weapon.

The threat posed by lax security at general aviation airports does not begin and end with a car crashing through a fence. There are other very worrisome concerns, starting with the security and screening procedures for passengers boarding air taxi flights. Security procedures are actually nonexistent. Let me repeat, there are no security requirements for these passengers. That's right; no Federal agency requires any screening. In fact, passengers are not even required to show a license or have their baggage checked. All you need to do to hop on board an air taxi service

flight is a credit card to buy your ticket. There's absolutely nothing else you need to do.

So you might be wondering, if the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration are not regulating security at general aviation airports, then who is? The industry is of course. To help them out, TSA worked with the charter industry to publish "Security Guidelines for General Aviation Airports" in May of 2004. But none of these guidelines are mandatory. They offer suggestions and guidance, but the TSA does not require any local airport operators, owners, or users to put the guidelines to use. If we're not mandating security procedures, then what's the point of even having guidelines? Since there are no mandatory requirements, the threat to our Nation's security remains.

The excuse for the inadequate security has been that it is impossible to provide a one-size-fits-all security plan for the Nation's 19,000 general aviation airports. If that's true, then why isn't the TSA looking at airports in high risk locations? That seems like a reasonable place to start, but the TSA has not even done that.

However, there has been one notable exception where the TSA stepped in and mandated tighter security for general aviation aircraft. Just a few miles away from the Capitol at Ronald Reagan National Airport, the TSA requires all general aviation flights leaving and coming into Reagan National to undergo special security procedures and all passengers must be screened by TSA. Now, I understand the threats that exist for flights around our Nation's Capitol. However, the same risks exist for my constituents in Northern New Jersey and for the people of Manhattan and New York who are at the same risk from flights taking off and landing at Teterboro Airport. Yet, the only thing the TSA has done to improve security at Teterboro is to require that flights to Reagan National follow the required safety precautions. This is just not enough.

There clearly is nothing preventing a terrorist from taking out a credit card, buying a ticket on an air charter flight, showing up for the flight with a gun, a bomb, or even a weapon of mass destruction and stepping onto a jet. With no air marshal on board and a full tank of fuel, any general aviation jet could become the next weapon of mass destruction. If the TSA wanted to do something about this threat they would, but they haven't. They are putting all their efforts into preventing the kind of attacks we saw on 9-11 and putting their trust in the charter industry to protect our Nation from a new style of air-based attack. In fact, the charter industry, which has seen dramatic growth since 9-11, markets itself based on its lax security procedures. They spend millions of dollars in advertising to the rich and powerful that the way to avoid the security hassles and inconvenience of commercial airports is to book a seat on a charter flight. They actually promote their own lack of security.

Protecting our homeland is the responsibility of government. It's time for this Congress and the administration to open their eyes and address this urgent homeland security concern. This industry is expected to grow by as much as 25 percent in the next few years. We must do something now. I urge the Homeland Security and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees to address this issue and enact

legislation that will keep America safe from the threat posed by the lack of security at general aviation airports.

HONORING THE SELECTION OF CASEY'S PLACE AS THE NATIONAL HOUSING ENDOWMENT'S CHOICE AS "PROJECT OF THE YEAR"

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor The Home Builders Association of Central New York on having their project, Casey's Place, chosen as "Project of the Year" by the National Housing Endowment. The Home Builders Association of Central New York is the first association in the Northeast to receive this prestigious award.

Casey's Place, a pediatric respite house for children with disabilities, is truly a remarkable project. It is the only facility of its kind in the U.S. that offers the needed services for the medically fragile and the developmentally challenged and their families, all free of charge.

Casey's Place came about through the hard work and dedication of the 350 member Home Builders Association of Central New York. Members donated materials, labor, and made financial contributions in order to create this dream home where families can escape the hardships of dealing with these types of tough medical conditions. The 10,000 square foot space is equipped with a media room, recreation room, accessible kitchen, themed restrooms, fully accessible shower and bathing facilities with reclining air jet tubs and state-of-the-art overhead lifting systems.

To date, Casey's Place has provided overnight, school break and summer day programs to over 150 children and their families from Central New York. Casey's Place lets these kids experience many of the activities we all take for granted. Without the altruistic spirit of the Home Builders Association of Central New York, none of this would be possible. They deserve special recognition. I wish them the best of luck with the Casey's Place and hope they are able to touch many more families across the region.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SENATOR LOURDES LEON GUERRERO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a dedicated public servant and a true daughter of Guam, Senator Lou Leon Guerrero. The daughter of the late Jesus Sablan and Eugenia Aflague Leon Guerrero, Lou was born and raised on Guam along with her brothers Jesse and Tony Leon Guerrero. She graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam High School and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the California State University at Los Angeles

in 1973. Lou began her career as a healthcare professional, working as a staff nurse at the Santa Monica Hospital. She was also attending graduate courses at UCLA, at this time. She earned her Master of Arts degree in Public Health in 1979.

Lou returned home to work at the Guam Memorial Hospital in 1980. She quickly rose through the ranks of Guam Memorial Hospital, serving as the hospital's Assistant Director of Nursing 1982 to 1983. Lou then worked for next 10 years at the Family Health Plan (FHP), a private health clinic on Guam. Lou became the FHP's Director of Operations in 1990. She served in that capacity until she entered politics in 1994.

Lou is a four-term senator in the Guam Legislature. She has served in a number of leadership roles during her 8 years in the Legislature. Lou became the Chairwoman of the Committee on Rules and Health in 2003. She was also a candidate for Lieutenant Governor during the 1998 election cycle.

Lou's career as a nurse laid the foundation for her commitment to serving Guam and the public. Lou's caring nature, her humanity, and her commitment to improving not only the quality of the healthcare available on this island, but the island as a whole was clear to see to those who worked closely with her over the years. It is my hope that her legacy of professionalism, service to the island, and community leadership will serve as a lasting inspiration for her family, friends, and associates as she leaves the Legislature for a new chapter in her professional life.

Lou forges an exciting a new path for herself and her family as she transitions to the position of President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Guam. Her brother Tony also served in this capacity. Her father Jesus founded the bank. Her service at the Bank of Guam is continuing the family tradition.

I have had the honor and privilege to work very closely with Lou over the years. She is both a colleague and a friend. I admire her tenacity, her love for the island of Guam and its people, and her commitment to do what she believes is best for them. Her determination to improve the lives of residents of Guam, her commitment to forming good public policy, and her persistence in seeing the needed carried out is commendable. Her presence in the Legislature will be greatly missed.

On behalf of a grateful island, I join her husband, Attorney Jeff Cook, her children Joaquin and Mariana, and all the people of Guam, in extending Senator Lou Leon Guerrero my most heartfelt appreciation for all the good work she has done for Guam. Additionally, I wish her success and prosperity in her new leadership roles at the Bank of Guam.

MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER
REMEMBERED

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American warrior and patriot. Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel was a veteran of three wars, a Medal of Honor recipient, and a major figure in Army

aviation history. He passed away on April 2 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center after a long battle with cancer. CWO Novosel spent his last days as he spent most days at Walter Reed, talking with soldiers that were recovering from injuries sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Novosel received the Medal of Honor for his "gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." His citation reads:

He unhesitatingly maneuvered his helicopter into a heavily fortified and defended enemy training area where a group of wounded [South] Vietnamese soldiers were pinned down by a large enemy force. Flying without gunship or other cover and exposed to intense machine gun fire, CWO Novosel was able to locate and rescue a wounded soldier. Since all communications with the beleaguered troops had been lost, he repeatedly circled the battle area, flying at low level under continuous heavy fire, to attract the attention of the scattered friendly troops. This display of courage visibly raised their morale, as they recognized this as a signal to assemble for evacuation.

On 6 occasions he and his crew were forced out of the battle area by the intense enemy fire, only to circle and return from another direction to land and extract additional troops. Near the end of the mission, a wounded soldier was spotted close to an enemy bunker. Fully realizing that he would attract a hail of enemy fire, CWO Novosel nevertheless attempted the extraction by hovering the helicopter backward. As the man was pulled on board, enemy automatic weapons opened fire at close range, damaged the aircraft and wounded CWO Novosel. He momentarily lost control of the aircraft, but quickly recovered and departed under the withering enemy fire.

In all, 15 extremely hazardous extractions were performed in order to remove wounded personnel. As a direct result of his selfless conduct, the lives of 29 soldiers were saved. The extraordinary heroism displayed by CWO Novosel was an inspiration to his comrades in arms and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

As a dustoff pilot, CWO Novosel flew 2,543 missions and rescued 5,589 wounded or stranded soldiers, according to Army records. He was an excellent soldier and an extraordinary American. May God bless him and his family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROL C.
HARTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carol C. Harter, who is retiring after serving as the president University of Nevada, Las Vegas for the past 11 years.

Dr. Harter has dedicated herself to enriching the academic experience of the students at UNLV and expanding programs and enrollment at the university. Since Dr. Harter's appointment in 1995, UNLV has created more than 100 new degree programs. During her tenure at UNLV, more than 17 new buildings have been added, including the Lied Library. In addition, under her leadership, UNLV created the William S. Boyd School of Law, the School of Architecture, and the School of Dental Medicine—the first professional schools in

Nevada in these areas as well as professional programs in Physical Therapy and Public Health.

As president of UNLV, Dr. Harter has received numerous national awards including the Presidential Leadership Award by the National Collegiate Honors Council, the President's Award by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals, and the College President's Award by the All American Football Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Carol C. Harter and her distinguished career in service to higher education. I wish her the best in her retirement.

IN HONOR OF CLEVELAND READS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR JOHN "JACK" DOXSEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. John "Jack" Doxsey and every volunteer who participated this past year in Cleveland Reads, bringing hope and possibility through the gift of literacy to countless children and adults—thereby changing their lives forever. I also rise in recognition of Cleveland Reads Volunteer of the Year Nominees: Jessica Anthony, Andy Etridge, Dorothy Fike, Anita Morgan and Stephen Novak.

Established in 1987, Cleveland Reads, a non-profit organization, has consistently worked to draw individuals, businesses and agencies into their volunteer literacy projects and campaign. Mr. Doxsey, 84 years young, consistently reflects a caring and positive demeanor that gently inspires his students, raising their confidence with every turn of the page.

Twice weekly for the past 6 years, Mr. Doxsey, a tutor with ABLE in Cleveland Heights, volunteers his mornings as a tutor, instructing teachers and college students in English as a Second Language class. Mr. Doxsey has worked with students who hail from countries around the world, spanning five continents. Following the profound loss of his beloved wife, Mr. Doxsey had several options, including moving closer to his adult children, who live outside Ohio. Instead, he chose to move closer to Case Western University, where he has given the gift of language to numerous students struggling to assimilate to their new experience in America.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring every Volunteer of the Year nominee, and especially Mr. John "Jack" Doxsey, upon being named Cleveland Reads Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Doxsey's patience, kindness and concern for the young people of the world who journey to Cleveland seeking education, serves to build foundation of understanding that transcends language, borders and culture, connecting us all with the gifts of giving, empowering, and humanity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATTY MURPHY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty Murphy, a volunteer from southern Nevada, who because of her time and efforts helping others, has earned the distinguished President's Volunteer Service Award.

Patty is a volunteer nurse with the Medical Reserve Corps of Clark County. In September 2005 after the destructive forces of Hurricane Katrina tore through the Gulf Coast, she was deployed to Mobile, Alabama. There she worked on the M.S. Holiday, a cruise ship that temporarily housed evacuees following the Katrina aftermath. For 2 weeks Patty worked with a team of health care professionals to provide medical care for the evacuees.

The Medical Reserve Corps of Clark County is a committed and available reserve of practicing and retired health care professionals that can be rapidly mobilized to strengthen medical response capabilities during large-scale local emergencies. Although this organization was created by the local community for the local community, the leadership and experience provided by this group has proved to be a viable asset for a disaster on the opposite side of the country.

In 2002, President George W. Bush called on all Americans to make a difference in their communities through volunteer service. He created USA Freedom Corps, an Office of the White House, to strengthen and expand volunteer service. The President's Volunteer Service Award is presented to outstanding individuals who have displayed an outstanding example of service and who have accumulated over 100 hours of service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Patty Murphy on the floor of the House today. Her example of service testifies to all of us that we can all do a little more to help our neighbor. I applaud her for her efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEXAS WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY'S GYMNASTICS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the teamwork and spirit of the Texas Women's University's gymnastics program. These individuals have established themselves as true champions emphasized no less by their devotion and passion to the sport. Texas Women's University seized the opportunity to claim the 2006 USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championship. This victory marks the Pioneers' eighth national title and the first since 2003.

The Texas Women's gymnasts have exhibited their commitment to each other and their common goals this past year by diligently competing and overcoming any adversity in their way. Throughout the season these outstanding individuals have shown the success that comes from working as a team to achieve a great goal.

Under the leadership of head coach Frank Kudlac, assistant coaches Jackie Fain and Tim Rivera, graduate assistant Lisa Klein, and manager Catherine Schnoes, the team has continued its championship status.

TWU's gymnasts Courtney Arno, Amie Boles, Brenda Campbell, Brisa Fuentes, Amy Hulbert, Jennifer Kingsbury, Amber McMeans, Brista Michael, Kelsey Nixon, Brittany Parker, Tonya Pipkorn, Nicole Poling, Bethany Rehm, Emily Seidelman, and Nakia Westbrook have made their university community shine as well as themselves.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize this group of individuals who have made their community so proud. The gymnastic program of Texas Women's University has demonstrated the essence of the American spirit of sportsmanship.

RECOGNIZING THE MASON DISTRICT LITTLE LEAGUE UPON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Mason District Little League as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

In 1956, the Bailey's Crossroads community saw a growing demand for baseball, which at the time was the only organized sport available for young children. This spurred organization of the Bailey's Crossroads Little League. The league was organized and maintained by volunteers, mainly fathers of the players, as it still is today.

The league built their first fields in the Skyline area. After 12 years in the Skyline area, the league moved to JEB Stuart Park, and in 1978 the league underwent its largest reorganization when it joined with the Annandale American Little League, and was finally renamed to what it is today, Mason District Little League.

For 50 years, the Mason District Little League has been a strong part of the community, teaching kids the game of baseball. Hopefully in 50 more years the league will still be carrying on its great tradition of instilling in its players the values of sportsmanship, fair play, physical fitness, teamwork and an appreciation for the American pastime.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the thousands of parents, grandparents, children, and volunteers who have participated in and contributed to the success of the Mason District Little League. By teaching their community's children the game of baseball, the many Mason District Little League volunteers have contributed to the development of honest, productive, and decent citizens. I congratulate the League on its successes over the last 50 years and I wish it more successful years in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding institution.

REGARDING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOE LOUIS' PASSING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the great Joe Louis' passing; which will be commemorated on April 12th of this year in a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Even though I was very young, I will never forget sitting with my father listening to the radio broadcast of Louis' 1938 fight in which he knocked out Nazi Germany's Max Schmeling in the first round. His victory was important to me for many reasons, but the fact that Louis was from Detroit made his victory extra special.

The following is a copy of the press release issued by Arlington National Cemetery of the event.

What: Joe Louis Wreath-Laying Ceremony

When: Wednesday, April 12, 2006, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA, Section 7A, (Below the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier).

Joe Louis, former heavyweight champion of the world, will be remembered by his son, Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., along with several dignitaries and family members, during a wreath-laying ceremony on the 25th anniversary of his passing. The ceremony will be held at Arlington National Cemetery where Louis is buried just below the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Louis, considered by many as the greatest boxer of all times, died on April 12, 1981 in Las Vegas, NV. Born in Chambers County, Alabama, Louis grew up in Detroit, Michigan. He became the World Heavyweight Championship in 1937 and held the title until 1949, a record 11 years 8 months. Louis defended his title a record 25 times and defeated his opponents 5 times in first round knockouts, also a record.

His most memorable bouts were with German Max Schmeling. Louis took a devastating defeat early in his career, losing to Schmeling in a 12th round knockout in their first encounter in 1936. After winning the title by defeating James J. Braddock on June 22, 1937, Louis and Schmeling met again on June 22, 1938 before 78,000 fans in New York Yankee Stadium. Louis, wanting to erase the cloud on his championship from his earlier defeat, delivered a stunning knockout of Schmeling in two minutes and four seconds of the first round. With that victory, Louis transcended from Heavyweight Champion to American Hero. In 1981 President Ronald Reagan granted the request to have Louis buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Louis served in the U.S. Army during World War II and achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

April 12, 2006 will be a day when America and the world will pause to acknowledge the impact of an African American born to sharecroppers in Alabama, growing up in the inner city of Detroit who rose to the pinnacle of his career. In doing so Louis provided hope to an entire generation of Black Americans and simultaneously challenged a segregated United States to question limiting the rights of its citizens based on the color of their skin.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARION STATE BANK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Marion State Bank in Marion, TX.

The Marion State Bank was granted a State charter on October 26, 1906, 30 years after the establishment of Marion as a town. The Marion State Bank has operated for almost a century without changing ownership and has not merged with any other banking institutions, ranking it seventh in the State of Texas in terms of longevity, and one of the original 130 chartered banks in the State of Texas.

In addition, the Marion State Bank will celebrate its 100th anniversary with total assets of close to \$43 million. It has served as a major partner in the economic growth of the greater Marion community for a century which includes the communities of New Berlin, Marion, Zuehl, and Santa Clara. The bank has assisted farmers and ranchers to produce crops, buy cattle and land as the major economy of the 80-square-mile area that they have served for the past century.

The Marion State Bank stands as an exemplary banking institution that has provided the community with stability and commitment to the future of the citizens of the greater Marion community. The bank has weathered many outside influences and economic changes, but it stands today as a symbol of a home-owned bank that brings a sense of community in an ever-changing and fast-paced world.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the 100th anniversary of Marion State Bank in the State of Texas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK SCOTT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Scott, whose story of personal and professional success should serve as an inspiration for us all.

Mr. Scott built his business empire after returning to Las Vegas from World War II where he had served as a second lieutenant in the Army in Japan. In the 1950s and 60s, Scott opened a wholesale building material company, operated a fixed base aircraft operation and founded Stocks Ready-Mix Concrete. In the 1970s, as chairman of the First Western Savings Association, Scott was credited with saving the bank from near financial ruin. And in 1983 Mr. Scott was named co-Convention Man of the Year by the Hotel Sales Management Association's Las Vegas Chapter. Scott was also the founder of the Plaza Hotel and Casino.

Frank Scott was a bank chairman, director of Nevada Power and president of the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada Resort Association. Additionally, Scott was a board member of the local Boy Scouts chapter, a UNLV trustee, a captain of the

Sheriffs Mounted Police and a board member of the Nevada Museum of Fine Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor Frank Scott and his extraordinary career and I appreciate his efforts on behalf of the community. His death is a profound loss for the community and he will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the parish community of St. Andrew Catholic Church, as members and leaders celebrate 100 years of faith and hope throughout Cleveland's southwest side.

Throughout the past century, St. Andrew parish has served as a spiritual refuge, opening its doors to individuals and families in search of guidance, spirituality and peace.

The ministry of St. Andrew began in 1906, serving immigrant families who settled in Cleveland. Since that time, a number of pastors and parishioners have served as critical guides in the journey of the faithful at St. Andrew Church. Over the years, the parish community has evolved and grown, and has also survived numerous struggles and hardships.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every past and current member and spiritual leader of St. Andrew Catholic Church. Despite hardship and adversity, St. Andrew Catholic Church continues to provide a haven of faith, guidance, renewal and support for hundreds of families and individuals, in the heart Cleveland and far beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAS VEGAS WINGS CHAPTER OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a special group of American heroes, those that have received the Distinguished Flying Cross. I honor them today for their service and dedication to our great Nation.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was authorized by an act of Congress on July 2, 1926 and is awarded to any officer or enlisted member of the Armed Forces who has distinguished themselves during combat in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

Since its creation the Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to some of America's greatest aviators and serves as a reminder of their heroic actions. This prestigious medal was first awarded to Charles A. Lindbergh, of the U.S. Army Corps Reserve, for his solo flight of 3,600 miles across the Atlantic in 1927. The first Distinguished Flying

Cross to be awarded to a naval aviator was awarded to Richard E. Byrd, of the U.S. Navy Air Corps, for his flight to the North Pole. The contributions of these great aviators and those that followed are honored by this prestigious award.

In 1994 the Distinguished Flying Cross Society was formed as a nonprofit organization whose members have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The society has established scholarships and benefits for organizations and individuals throughout the Nation that are seeking to make advances in aviation.

In February of this year the Distinguished Flying Cross Society officially recognized a new chapter, the Las Vegas Wings Chapter in Southern Nevada. The great State of Nevada is home to more than 260,000 veterans many of which have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. As a Member of Congress and a Nevadan, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome, to the Las Vegas Wings Chapter, of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute these great American heroes and the Las Vegas Wings Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society.

HONORING MR. BILL BUEVENS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Buevens for his commitment to safety as an air traffic controller at the Dallas/Fort Worth Terminal Radar Approach Control.

On a warm, cloudy night with poor visibility, Mr. Buevens noticed American Airlines Flight 599 approaching the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport lined up incorrectly on the runway by fault of the instrument landing systems.

After noticing that a problem might potentially arise, Buevens remained on constant watch of Flight 599 which seemed weary on his instinct. Drawing on his 18 years of experience and hunch, Buevens' fear proved true when the plane lined up to the wrong runway where another flight was taxiing for take off.

Buevens immediately alerted the tower controller who then contacted the pilot and realigned the flight to the correct runway. This save is credited as remarkable because of the radar display.

Mr. Buevens was honored with the NATCA's Archies League Medal of Safety, which is named for the first U.S. air traffic controller. He is one of 11 controllers honored this year for saves.

I am honored to today to recognize the exceptional service of Mr. Bill Buevens. His knowledge and dedication to safety saved not only the air line from a great travesty, but also kept the estimated 300 passengers out of harm's way.

TRIBUTE TO THE BERGEN RECORD

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to all those at the

Bergen Record newspaper who worked on the excellent award-winning 'Toxic Legacy' series of articles, which documented Ford Motor Company's dumping of toxic waste in northern Bergen and Passaic Counties in New Jersey.

The latest award from the Society of Professional Journalists is a testament to the dedicated reporting of Jan Barry, Barbara Williams, Tom Tronccone, Mary Jo Layton, Alex Nussbaum and Lindy Washburn, photographer Thomas E. Franklin, Editor Debra Lynn Vial, and project leader Tim Nostrand.

Investigative journalism of the caliber shown in this series is critical to an informed electorate and democracy. I am proud that so many prestigious journalism awards have gone to a daily newspaper written, printed, and distributed in my own District. Residents of Bergen and Passaic Counties are privileged to have access to a vibrant and competitive free press in New Jersey.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of The Onondaga County Medical Society. The Onondaga County Medical Society was first founded back on July 1, 1806. Back then, 11 physicians met on top of Onondaga Hill at the first Onondaga County Courthouse to establish this great society.

Since its founding, the society has helped Central New York deal with some of the more menacing health threats of the time. In the 1830s, physician members of the society dealt with Asiatic cholera. In the 1900s, the society addressed the local impact of the worldwide flu; which resulted in over 750 deaths within the Syracuse area. During the 1950s the society assisted the local community in dealing with the polio epidemic. Currently, the society and its more than 1,260 members are working with the New York State Department of Health in preparation for the possibility of a bird flu outbreak.

The Onondaga County Medical Society also played a leading role in the establishment of the College of Medicine at Syracuse in 1872. In 1950, this college went on to become the Upstate Medical University, which has become a tremendous resource and aide for the entire Central New York region.

Throughout its history, The Onondaga County Medical Society has played an important role in the healthcare of the people of Central New York. Members have done their best to live up to the Society's motto, "to promote and preserve quality health care by working for patients, physicians and the community."

On behalf of the people of Central New York, I applaud the 200 years of hard work members of The Onondaga County Medical Society have provided. I wish the Society the best of luck and expect nothing but the best service in the many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER AWARD PRESENTED TO BLACK CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Black Construction Corporation of Guam on the occasion of it being awarded the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence in the construction category by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Named for the president under whom the SBA was founded, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence honors large federal contractors nationwide with the most outstanding small business subcontracting programs.

Each year, the SBA awards those businesses and federal agencies that have excelled in various aspects of federal procurement. To be eligible for consideration for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence a company must first be the recipient of the SBA Award of Distinction. The SBA has twice honored Black Construction Corporation for its record of support for small business on Guam and throughout Micronesia, following a nationwide review of construction companies that are awarded federal contracts. It is my hope that companies that are prime contractors for federal construction projects heed the example set by Black Construction Corporation and will continue to subcontract with local small businesses.

The vast majority of American companies are small businesses. They are the largest creator of private sector jobs. American small businesses have also established a strong record of innovation and are routinely implementing cutting edge technologies. Furthermore, the success of local economies is dependant upon the strength of small businesses. As local small businesses grow stronger, so do the communities in which they serve. Black Construction Corporation fulfills an essential role in that process on Guam and throughout Micronesia by utilizing small businesses to complete federal construction projects.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF MR. DAVID FOY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent, a public servant, an American patriot who laid down his life in support of the ideals of our great nation.

On March 2, 2006, David Foy, a Department of State Facilities Manager for our Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan was killed, along with three other individuals, by a suicide bomber. We will never forget David's service, nor its premature end.

David Foy served his country by dedicating 23 years of his life to the United States Navy retiring as a Senior Chief. But David

wanted to keep serving his country. After several years as a civilian employee at Fort Bragg, he moved over to the Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations where he became a Facilities Manager. For the last three years he has served in areas at the heart of our War on Terror, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan.

David's eulogy says everything you need to know about him as a man and him as a servant. He is a hero and a warrior. He was a devoted family man who deeply loved and adored his wife and their four daughters.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on May 5th will honor this loyal patriot by presenting to his wife, Donna, and his daughters the Department of State's Thomas Jefferson Star Award for sacrifice in the performance of his duties.

Mr. Speaker, David Foy is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his dedication to this country that he served so long and so well. David and other civil servants like him are the reason why we rise every morning in the warmth of a blanket of freedom. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOU EMMERT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lou Emmert for her professional success and outstanding contributions to the community.

Lou Emmert is the vice president and general manager for Sprint of Nevada, the primary local telephone provider for Clark County. In this role, she directs the efforts of local and state governmental relations, regulatory relations, public relations and community involvement activities, and is the main point of contact for key business leaders.

Lou is also involved in many community organizations, including the Girl Scouts of Frontier Council, the Las Vegas Chamber Board of Trustees, the YMCA Board, the Nevada Development Authority Board, the Las Vegas Philharmonic Board of Directors, the Nevada International Women's Forum, the Clark County Public Education Foundation, the Clark County Department of Social Service Citizens Advisory Committee, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Desert Research Institute Foundation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor Lou Emmert for her extraordinary record of professional and community service. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND
FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board, for their individual and

collective dedication as public servants, all focused on the public good.

The community of federal employees in Cleveland, Ohio, is comprised of nearly 20,000 individuals who contribute their talent, trade and expertise daily within an array of roles, including park rangers, administrators, accountants, clerical employees, attorneys, engineers, military members, mail carriers, scientists, nurses and physicians.

The professional contribution extended daily by federal employees serves as a foundation of support, safety and security throughout our community. Every day, the mail is delivered; veterans receive medical care; the environment is monitored; our national park is preserved; immigrants are guided to citizenship; job services are provided; and astronomers study the mysteries of the universe.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of the members of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board and the thousands of federal employers who live and work within our Cleveland community. Their individual and collective commitment to their work continues to preserve, protect and strengthen our entire community.

BOOKSELLER OF THE YEAR—HONORING A VERMONT INSTITUTION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Northshire Books, honored as this year's Bookseller of The Year. The selection and award was made by Publisher's Weekly.

Northshire Books is located in the small town of Manchester, Vermont. Owned by Ed and Barbara Morrow, it is a wonderful example of a locally-owned bookstore. It boasts a handsome environment for browsing books and a huge selection of titles. The selection it carries is not chosen by corporate giants seeking maximum sales, or by a central office following national trends. Quite the contrary, Northshire's wonderful inventory of books is the result of the informed knowledge of its staff: people who read and value books.

Northshire Books regularly presents readings by authors, allowing it to serve as a rich cultural resource for all of southwestern Vermont. It introduces young people to reading, through its fine children's section, and "Story times" for young readers.

Vermont authors value this wonderful store. "Northshire is everything one could want in a bookstore," said Vermont novelist Chris Bohjalian. "It's a huge gift to the state." And best-selling novelist John Irving agreed: "What's remarkable about the quality and range of the Northshire Bookstore is that Manchester isn't a college town, or even a very big town, yet the store is both broad and deep—it is literary, friendly to children, and welcoming to tourists. I love the place." Novelist Howard Frank Mosher said, "Every time I walk through there, the first thing I see is a dozen or so of my favorite contemporary novels and non-fiction books. He continued, "Then, the booksellers that the Morrows have hired over the years are, I think, the most knowledgeable booksellers I've ever met. They've actually read the books they sell and know an enormous amount about them."

Northshire has not been purely commercial. In 2003 its owners sponsored "Cry Out: Poets Protest the War," a collection of the anti-war poems were read by eleven renowned poets, including Galway Kinnell, Grace Paley and Jamaica Kincaid, to an overflow crowd of 500 in Manchester's First Congregational Church. That event was announced after the White House canceled a poetry reading out of a fear that poems critical of the war in Iraq might be read. The poems read were subsequently published by Braziller. And when the Patriot Act eliminated reader privacy—making it easy for investigators to check bookstore purchases without judicial oversight—Northshire actively opposed the law with American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. As a result, a petition with 185,000 signatures was sent to Congress, asking that it restore protections for reader privacy which were eliminated by Section 215 of the act.

Small, local business is the heart of the American economy. Local bookstores are, and have been ever since the times of Benjamin Franklin (a bookshop owner), a center of American learning. Congratulations to Northshire bookstore, to owners Ed and Barbara Morrow, to its manager Chris Morrow, to its staff, and to its dedicated and supportive patrons.

IN HONOR OF PACE UNIVERSITY'S
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most respected private institutions of higher learning in my district, Pace University, as it celebrates a major milestone, the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1906. This great school has grown from humble beginnings as a School of Accountancy to become a vibrant and dynamic Liberal Arts University offering more than 100 majors.

Over the last century, the school has lived up to its motto, *Opportunitas*, by offering its students the opportunity to discover and fulfill their potential, and affording its distinguished faculty and outstanding staff the opportunity to achieve excellence. As part of its 15-month centennial celebration, Pace University will be hosting lectures, symposia, service activities, and other special events that reflect on its long history of opportunity and innovation.

With its six schools and colleges and two main campuses, Pace is consistently ranked among the top quarter of 4-year colleges and universities in the country. Pace's School of Law is nationally recognized for the excellence of its Environmental Law Program and its Lienhard School of Nursing has been an acknowledged leader in nursing education, research, and practice for more than 35 years.

Ultimately, Pace University's greatest strength has been its people—its faculty, staff, students, and alumni—and its most profound achievement can be seen in the countless lives that have been transformed by the Pace experience. I offer my sincere congratulations to all those that have helped the school prosper and grow over the past 100 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF LAS VEGAS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Armenian-American Cultural Society of Las Vegas on this, the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. This organization was established in 1978, and since that time has grown in size and influence. They are now the largest non-political, non-denominational organization in Nevada. They have worked tirelessly to educate the general public about the atrocious acts committed against their people and also to help preserve the Armenian culture here in Las Vegas and America.

I am proud to represent a large and vibrant Armenian community in the Third Congressional District of Nevada and I consider it an honor to have been invited to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. These ceremonies offer participants an opportunity to honor the survivors and their descendants, and to remind the world of the tragedy that befell Armenians of the Ottoman Empire.

It is estimated that one and a half million Armenians perished between 1915 and 1923 in a genocide planned and executed by the Turkish government against the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. The great bulk of the Armenian population was removed from Armenia and Anatolia to Syria, where the vast majority was sent into the desert to die of thirst and hunger. Large numbers of Armenians were methodically massacred throughout the Ottoman Empire. The entire wealth of the Armenian people was expropriated. After only a little more than a year of calm at the end of WWI, the atrocities were renewed between 1920 and 1923, and the remaining Armenians were subjected to further massacres and expulsions.

While there are still many who deny that the Armenian Genocide ever took place, I am pleased to see more and more countries and states and even the media are now in the process of recognizing the genocide. It is critical that we reflect on this human tragedy and on the lessons of history and work to avoid the horrors faced by the Armenian people in 1915.

H.R. 3380—THE GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROMOTION AND KINSHIP SUPPORT ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and honor the 294,969 California grandparents as well as 2.4 million grandparents around the Nation who act as primary guardians to grandchildren that are unable to live with their parents. As a result of the service and efforts of these individuals, many children around California and the country are able to live with relatives and stay out of the foster care system.

According to the Census of 2000, 6.8 percent of California's children are living in grandparent-headed households as well as an additional 3.5 percent living in households headed by other non-parent relatives. I commend the efforts these relatives take in providing a safe and familiar living environment for these children.

However, now more than ever, I also recognize the financial hardships and personal sacrifices faced by these guardians. As a cosponsor of H.R. 3380, The Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, I am committed to working toward a solution that will help to alleviate these financial burdens placed on guardians and give them access to Federal funds that they deserve.

Today, on behalf of the constituents of the 16th District of California, I extend my deepest appreciation to these exceptional guardians. It is an honor to have many of these individuals in my own district whose care and commitment to vulnerable children help to build a better future for them.

IN RECOGNITION OF COUNTY CONNECTION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Representative GEORGE MILLER, to pay tribute to County Connection, the public bus system provider that serves more than a dozen communities and unincorporated areas of central Contra Costa County in our two Congressional Districts.

County Connection was founded on March 27, 1980 under a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. After several years of careful planning, locally elected officials in Central Contra Costa recognized the need for a truly coordinated and integrated regional transit system.

County Connection began providing service with 12 buses, carrying 1,950,000 passengers, traveling 1,423,357 miles. In just its first ten years, the agency multiplied its fleet of buses ten fold. Today, the transportation agency maintains a current fleet of 131 buses and 56 LINK vans, makes nearly 5,000,000 fixed-route and paratransit trips throughout central Contra Costa and provides 4.5 million rides annually.

The system is now overseen by an 11-member Board of Directors, one representative from each jurisdiction and one representative for the unincorporated areas of Central County.

Since its establishment, County Connection has received numerous prestigious awards including; the American Public Transit Association (APTA) Minority & Women Advancement Award for its meritorious accomplishments in the employment, promotion and training of minorities and women in management positions, and this year, the California Water Environment Association recognized the agency with its "Facility of the Year" award in recognition for going above and beyond normal efforts to protect susceptible plant and wildlife that survive in local streams.

For 25 years, County Connection has provided vital transportation services to residents throughout Central Contra Costa. As the popu-

lation of this County grows, the services provided by County Connection have never been needed more. Each day agency buses help people get to their work, return home, and in general provide a service that no other program in the community can. Today, we are proud to commend County Connection for the agency's service to the community and its lasting commitment to the people of Contra Costa County.

MGIB LEGISLATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an inequity facing America's men and women in uniform who seek an education in return for their military service.

For years, the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) has allowed thousands of men and women in uniform attend college or to receive vocational training to prepare for a new career after the military.

It is an excellent program and one we must preserve.

However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remedy an inequity that exists in this program with legislation I am introducing today.

To receive the benefits of the Montgomery GI Bill, our service members must pay \$1,200 to \$1,800 into the program at the beginning of their military service.

A \$100 is deducted each month from their military pay for the first 12 months, for example.

With the legislation I offer today, our service members would still make the initial contribution. However, this contribution would no longer count against them later on when they apply for federal student aid.

In many cases, Mr. Speaker, the Montgomery GI Bill alone does not cover the cost for college or job training. Our service members must also apply for federal student aid to cover tuition and other expenses.

The Department of Education considers their benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill as "income"—thereby reducing the amount they are eligible to receive from federal student aid programs.

This legislation goes back to the \$1,200 out-of-pocket contribution that a service member made to become eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill.

It is not fair to ask our service members to pay the original amount out of their own pocket and then penalize them for it later on.

This bill would simply exempt the original contribution that came from their own pocket from the Department of Education's income consideration.

This legislation does not present significant cost to the federal government but would go a long way to help America's individual service members afford college.

I offered the provisions contained in this legislation as part of the College Access and Opportunity Act (H.R. 609) when it was on the House floor.

Unfortunately, the amendment was not accepted, but I plan to pursue the issue until we correct this inequity.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take just a moment to thank those who have worked on

this issue and who have pushed for the exemption in the past.

I am proud to offer this legislation along with Ranking Member LANE EVANS of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. EVANS and his staff have been seeking a remedy for this inequity for several years.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to offer legislation benefiting America's military service members and helping them to attend college or receive job training.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF
ED PEREZ

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the 30 years of service that Ed Perez, Esq. has given to the City of Los Angeles. Although his retirement from the City Attorney's Office on February 17th marks the end of his City employment, it does not end a notable career in the practice of law. Indeed, his contributions to the City's telecommunications policies have been so great that several members of the City Council hope he will return as an advisor.

As the City continues to negotiate franchise agreements and shape important telecommunication policies that impact the everyday lives of all Angelinos, we understand the value and depth of expertise that a faithful employee brings to the table at this critical time.

Mr. Perez began his initial employment with the Office of the City Attorney in the Criminal Division and switched to the Civil Division 3 years later. In that position he provided legal advice regarding public utilities such as telecommunications and energy, and transactional matters for the City's Information Technology Agency.

Mr. Perez was the City's legal advisor for cable television franchising and regulation from 1981–2003, beginning with the initial wiring of the city in 1981 and culminating in the citywide franchising agreements in 1987. During this period, Mr. Perez had the distinguished honor of presenting an oral argument before the United States Supreme Court in 1986, in the *Preferred Communications v. City of Los Angeles*, 476 U.S. 488. For this, we offer our sincere appreciation to Ed Perez for both his commitment to and invaluable understanding of these issues on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles.

When Mr. Perez transferred to the Department of Water and Power in June 2003, he continued to be one of the principal attorneys monitoring complex utility regulations for the City.

He looks forward to more time with his wife Patricia, and their children, Christine and David, upon his retirement. I wish him all the best as he plans for an active retirement and sincerely thank him for his noteworthy accomplishments on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles.

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF
U.S.-KOREA FTA NEGOTIATIONS

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, in a ceremony held February 2, 2006, in the Mansfield Room of the U.S. Capitol and attended by many Members of Congress, U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and South Korean Minister of Trade Hyun-Chong Kim announced the commencement of negotiations toward a U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and signaled their commitment to conclude the talks by March 2007. The U.S. and Korea plan to implement the agreement by September 2007. In light of the fact that the FTA negotiations will officially begin next week, I rise to recognize the significance of this undertaking.

Launching the United States-South Korea FTA talks is a critical step in the relationship with an important U.S. strategic ally and economic partner. I strongly believe that as we pursue market access for U.S. exporters, it is to our advantage to strengthen already constructive relationships with our allies. South Korea is our seventh largest trading partner and a friend in a challenging region of the world. Advancing the economic relationship makes sense and will be an important benefit to two great nations.

Close engagement between the U.S. and South Korea has paved the way for FTA negotiations. Even before the official announcement, the South Korean Government demonstrated how important it considers improved trade relations with the United States. South Korea took the concrete step of reducing the long-standing quotas that limited the screening of films by the American entertainment industry. I am encouraged by the progress that has been made so far on addressing several trade concerns. I am confident that South Korea will continue to work closely with the USTR Rob Portman toward making this endeavor a success.

The FTA negotiations will officially begin on May 3, following the expiration of the statutory 90-day consultative period. In the interim, our two governments have agreed to hold preliminary discussions. According to reports, once the FTA takes full effect, over 90 percent of traded goods between the U.S. and Korea will be phased out over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of underscoring the importance of these talks, permit me to list a few salient facts about the U.S.-Korean economic relationship.

South Korea is a stable, democratic country with a free-enterprise economy and a gross domestic product of \$726.5 billion in 2005, making it the world's 11th largest economy.

The per capita income of South Koreans in 2004 is an impressive \$14,162.

As noted by the Los Angeles Times, South Korea is now the seventh largest trading partner of the United States, with over \$72 billion in trade volume each year. Moreover, South Korea is the fifth largest market for U.S. agricultural products.

U.S. exports into South Korea totaled \$25.1 billion through November of 2005, up 4.6 percent from the same period in 2004, with the biggest U.S. sales coming in computer chips, \$4.2 billion; industrial machinery, \$1.4 billion,

organic chemicals, \$1.3 billion, and civilian aircraft at \$953 million.

At the same time, South Korean exports to the United States totaled \$40.1 billion through November 2005, down 5.4 percent from the same period in 2004, with the biggest South Korean sales coming in passenger cars, \$7.2 billion; household goods, including cell phones, at \$5.7 billion; computer chips, \$2.8 billion; and computer accessories, televisions, and VCRs at \$3.9 billion.

According to a study done in 2001 by the U.S. International Trade Commission, a U.S.-Korea free-trade agreement could increase U.S. exports to South Korea by \$19 billion and U.S. imports from South Korea by \$10 billion.

Finally, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, during the 2004 calendar year, 627,000 South Koreans visited the United States for tourism and business travel, representing the fifth largest foreign market of tourists, excluding Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I wish to recognize the launch of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement negotiations and I encourage my colleagues to offer their own expressions of support. South Korea is a long-standing and trustworthy ally of the United States and a mutual FTA would only further solidify and reinforce our alliance partnership.

TRIBUTE TO 2005 NOBEL PRIZE
WINNERS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and honor Drs. Roy J. Glauber, John L. Hall, and Theodor Hänsch for being awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2005, and Drs. Yves Chauvin, Robert H. Grubbs, and Richard R. Schrock for being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2005.

The 2005 Nobel Prize in Physics encompasses the field of optics and its applications. The three gentlemen celebrated today are laser pioneers. Lasers have numerous practical applications, including in products such as CD players and grocery store scanners, for computer manufacturing, and in surgery.

Roy Glauber gave a detailed, quantum mechanical description of the interaction of light and matter, thus creating the foundation for the field of quantum optics. Glauber's work also created the groundwork on the quantum theory of lasers.

In addition, John Hall and Theodor Hänsch received the prize for their contributions to the development of laser-based precision spectroscopy. This technique allows scientists to probe the atom with ever-increasing accuracy, explore the subtle intricacies of gravity, and lead to a better understanding of the pressing question of imbalance between the amounts of matter and antimatter in the universe.

The work of the three in concert will lead, for instance, to the next generation satellite navigation systems, improving on GPS, which is widely used in both military and civilian transportation systems. Another major potential application of this research, quantum cryptography, which could impenetrably secure data transmission, is of interest to financial institutions and governments as the emerging

knowledge economy requires the protection of information and ideas.

I would also like to recognize Dr. Yves Chauvin, Professor Robert H. Grubbs, and Professor Richard R. Schrock who were awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for development of the metathesis method in organic synthesis. From the Greek words meaning to change position, metathesis methodology, and its variety of enabling catalysts, have become invaluable in the development and industrial scale production of polymers, fuel additives, biologically active compounds, and drugs.

The formation and reorganization of carbon-carbon bonds is the heart of synthetic organic chemistry. Developing new techniques and methods for controlling carbon connectivity is critical to advancing an enormous range of scientific advancement and technological development.

Methods like metathesis represent the very tools used by chemists around the world to build better drugs, better fuels, and better materials in ways that are cheaper, faster, and cleaner. Chemists around the world have incorporated metathesis reactions into production schemes for novel medicines and even materials used in bullet-proof vests; and the increased efficiency realized by metathesis reactions leads to less waste generated in the process.

The work of these Noble laureates reverberates through technological developments and innovative engineering, resulting in the strengthening of our economy. The basic research which brought about the Nobel Prizes in 2005 was funded by agencies like the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which are funded by the Federal Government.

While much of the fundamental research performed or funded through these agencies may not immediately appear to have practical applications, we must recognize that today's chemical oddity or strange physical principle could be tomorrow's Nobel Prize. Yet, the total Federal research and development portfolio is taking a cut for the first time since 1996 in the President's fiscal year 2007 budget request.

Mr. Speaker, the world is in transition right now. We, and the other industrialized nations of the world, are accelerating into a knowledge-based global economy. We can make no assumptions that the United States will remain the dominant factor in this economy. Complacency will be our downfall.

As we celebrate Nobel Prize winners and honor their work, we are slipping behind in the scramble for the top of the globalization mountain. Other nations are acting as we sit thinking of actions to take. The cultural shift required for our Nation to move forward and maintain a competitive edge over other nations begins with how the Federal Government spends its money. We must increase the funding for research and development to maintain our competitiveness.

We must come together as one Congress, united across party lines, choosing to act for our future.

RECOGNIZING BILL SERGEANT

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding humanitarian service and contribution made by Rotarian William T. ("Bill") Sergeant on the occasion of his retirement from his position as Chairman of the International PolioPlus Committee of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International—a committee that develops Rotary's policies and strategies to achieve polio eradication. Since the inception of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee in 1994, Bill Sergeant, a retired Colonel, has served tirelessly as the General leading the efforts of Rotary's army of 1.2 million volunteers in the war against polio.

A member of the Rotary club of Oak Ridge, Tennessee for more than 50 years, Bill Sergeant held many leadership positions in Rotary, including Rotary International Vice-president, Director, and Foundation Trustee, before assuming leadership of PolioPlus, Rotary's flagship program. Bill Sergeant has traveled to countries on 6 continents to participate in polio eradication activities, represented Rotary International at strategic meetings, and promoted the cause of global polio eradication and ensured its prominence among the Rotary world as Rotary's highest priority.

Through his integrity, acumen and keen observation, Bill Sergeant quickly earned the respect of peers in the other three spearheading organizations: the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; thereby strengthening the efficacy of this unique public/private collaborative effort for the ultimate benefit of the children of the world. Under Bill Sergeant's leadership, Rotary established criteria for the strategic use of PolioPlus grant funds, launched the PolioPlus Partners program to provide supplemental support for critical polio eradication activities, and established international advocacy to ensure sufficient political and financial public sector support for global polio eradication efforts.

During his tenure as Chairman of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, three regions of the world have been certified polio-free and only four countries remain with endemic transmission of polio. Bill Sergeant has demonstrated, through his exemplary, single-minded dedication to the goal of a polio-free world, that one man can make the world a better place through commitment, determination, and a great deal of heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our fellow representatives to join me in recognizing Bill Sergeant for his outstanding leadership and service in support of the goal of a polio-free world—a goal which the United States Government shares.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MAI TRAN AND MR. BRUCE HOTTMAN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Mai Tran

and Mr. Bruce Hottman of Information Technology Experts in Fort Collins, Colorado on being named Small Business Persons of the Year by the Small Business Administration.

Over the course of its 10-year history, ITX has consistently been recognized as one of Colorado's foremost small businesses. As a leading provider of full-service Information Technology support in Northern Colorado, ITX has earned the confidence of numerous corporate, non-profit, and governmental organizations. The leadership and expertise demonstrated by Mr. Tran and Mr. Hottman have resulted in the tremendous expansion and growth of ITX. In only 6 years, ITX has more than tripled the size of its workforce to 95 individuals.

Mr. Speaker, the remarkable economic success realized by ITX pales in comparison to the extraordinary generosity and commitment to the community embodied by members of the ITX family. Following the 2004 Asian tsunami disaster, ITX generously contributed funds to aid Chennai victims and was subsequently honored by the City of Fort Collins with a key to the city. Additionally, ITX has been lauded for providing much-needed computer equipment to the Asian Chamber of Commerce and discounted IT services to over a dozen Northern Colorado non-profit organizations.

As a member of the Governor's Minority Business Advisory Council, Mai Tran is a recognized leader in the small business community and is active in addressing issues that affect minority businesses across the State. He personifies his own belief that through skill, hard work, and determination, minority businesses strengthen Colorado's economy.

At the age of 16, Mr. Tran fled to the United States after South Vietnam fell to communism. Through a great deal of determination and hard work, Mr. Tran overcame his lack of English skills and went on to earn a degree in Computer Science and Mathematics from Colorado State University. Today, as President and CEO of ITX, Mr. Tran's dedication and commitment to others serves as an inspiration to his employees and his community.

As co-founder and Executive Vice President of ITX, Mr. Hottman's wealth of experience and expertise in the field of information technology have ensured the success of ITX and its continued contributions to the community. After graduating from Colorado State University with a degree in computer information systems, Mr. Hottman worked at United Banks and the United States Department of Agriculture before joining the Western Area Power Administration as Project Leader. While at WAPA, Mr. Hottman and Mr. Tran worked together as a high performing team of IT professionals, and in 1996 they decided to form their own IT services provider. Like Mr. Tran, Mr. Hottman's involvement in the Fort Collins Foothills Rotary Club and other community organizations has inspired and encouraged the employees of ITX to become active members of their community.

I am proud to represent individuals with such a remarkable entrepreneurial and compassionate spirit. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments and selfless dedication of Mr. Mai Tran and Mr. Bruce Hottman.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S TABLE TENNIS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the teamwork and spirit of the Texas Wesleyan University's Table Tennis program. These individuals have established themselves as true champions, emphasized no less by their devotion and passion to the sport. Texas Wesleyan is home to the National Championship Team for Collegiate Table Tennis, a title they have held since 2002. Texas Wesleyan University has won 16 out of 25 possible collegiate titles in 4 years.

The Texas Wesleyan table tennis players have exhibited their commitment to each other and their common goals this past season by diligently competing and overcoming any adversity in their way. Throughout the season these outstanding individuals have shown the success that comes from working as a team to achieve a great goal.

Under the leadership of former coaches and players such as Christian Lillieroo, the team has continued its championship status. It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize this group of individuals who have made their community so proud: Interim Coach Keith Evans; Interim Assistant Coach Jasna Reed; Program Assistant Michael Meier; Volunteer Assistant Coach James Rautis; and Women's Junior Varsity team members Johnese Evans and Kareema Styles; Women's Varsity team members Jasna Reed and Sabrina Worrell; Men's Junior Varsity team members Andre Scott, Aldis Presley, Michael Meier, David Livings, Peter Lindsay-van der Puije, Sadiq Khan and Tim Aikay; and Men's Varsity team members Eric Owens, Courtney Roberts, Dinko Kranjac, Abdul Rahman Khan, Ludovic Gombos and Carlos Chiu.

The table tennis program of Texas Wesleyan University has demonstrated the essence of the American spirit of sportsmanship.

ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The regional academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based upon their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities, both school related and outside

school activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my district are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

David Keith Greene III, David Aaron Griffith, Brian Matthew Harrell, Kenton Mark Henderson, Matthew Thomas Hightower, Nicole Liane Paul, Michael Wayne Rowe, Lindsey Michelle Storm, Allison Rae Hudson, Steven Kurtis McGhee, Samantha Jean Moore, Daniel Stephen Richard, Elizabeth Alice Riley, Dustin Alan Shaw, Sarah Nicole Becker, Amanda Josephine Collett, Jessica Elizabeth Joy Gapp, Samantha René McIntyre, Cody James Noffsinger, Hilary Dawn Pate, Mary Rachel Ray, Paul Allen Reed, Thomas Andrew Burkhead, Amanda Leigh Hall, and Lindsey Nicole Hancock.

Eric Anthony Money, Kelsey Paige Pendleton, John Luke Schirtzinger, Sarah Ann Stokes, Christie Marie White, Bethany Ann Cooper, Caitlyn Taylor Hughes, Kari Jaclyn Keech, Patrick Ross Metcalfe, Denver Andrew Sizemore, Caitlyn White, Betsy Camille Austin, Barrett Ray Boyd, Garrett James Ebel, Hunter Wood Hayes, John David Heisterberg, Garrett Richard Sharp, Stacey Brooke Sholar, James Gregory Williams II, Justin Keith Cavanaugh, Courtney Lynn Greenfield, Joshua Dwayne Jenkins, Aleia Lynne Judd, and Palak Manoj Majmudar.

Brittney Michele Metts, Forrest Samuel Pittman, Amanda Jane Sweet, Brittney Michelle Addison, Alana Freeman Baker, Kyle Mark Dettro, Leonard Gordon, Jr., Jennifer Lee Robinson, Derrick Shane Strong, Jillian Katherine Terhune, Kelsi Micolle Austin, Amanda Baker, Hadley Burns, Shantinna Marie Hartum, Mackenzie Isenberg, Emily K. Kelley, Lyndsey McClain, Cody Warren Nance, Stephanie M. Radford, Brandon Thomas Stanley, Hannah Elizabeth Stokes, Kanisha Paige Frye, Keishla A. Garcia, and Tanner James.

Justin Jateczak, Jordan Lee Johnson, Aaron Michael Laurent, Leslie Denise Peck, Brittany Sweet, Kevin Tyler Wiseman, Preston Workman, John Wright, Marty Stuart Asbridge, Taylor Davis, Lyndsey McClain, Anna Miller, Kendra Angela Montejos, Carly Jo P'Pool, Michelle Schulz, Thomas Shaheen, Chelsea Smith, Sarah Tucker, Josh Villafranca, Matthew P. Clark, Will Farmer, Thomas James Gilkey, Casey Haley, Austin Porter Hart, Jessica Nichole Jobe, Emily Anne Koehler, Tierra L. McShan, James Lile Rummage, Ashton Spangler, and Kelsey Elizabeth Thomason.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDDIE WALTER JACKSON, JR.

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great individual and community leader, Mr. Eddie Walter Jackson, Jr., and to thank him for his contributions to the greater Waco community and this great Nation.

Mr. Jackson is one of three children born to the late Ed W. Jackson, Sr., and the late Lula Mae Bowman Parker.

Mr. Jackson graduated from Corsicana Public Schools and later Paul Quinn College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and business. He served this Nation honorably as a member of the U.S. Navy, World War II veteran.

Following his service in the military, Mr. Jackson's exemplary work history includes working as a teacher and coach at the Anderson High School in Mart, TX; 34 years of outstanding service at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Waco, TX, and Nick's Restaurant for over 30 years.

Mr. Jackson has a deep love for his family. He shared wonderful years of marriage to the late Lonnie B. Taylor Jackson. They had one son, Ronald Wayne Jackson, Sr., and three daughters, Sara L. Pimpton, Doris Laverne Jackson, and Portia Elaine Jackson. He is a proud and devoted grandfather of nine, great-grandfather of eight, and great-great-grandfather of two.

For over half a century today, Mr. Jackson has been a devoted member of the Pleasant Olive Missionary Baptist Church. He is a life member of the American Legion, a member of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the American Federation of Government Employees, AFGE, Local 1822 for over 40 years, a dedicated member of the Central Texas Labor Council for 50 years and the Masonic Family-Mason.

Within the community, Mr. Jackson has shown a deep commitment by serving as a deputized voter registrar, poll watcher for elections, precinct 2, volunteer for the Democratic Party, and a candidate for the Silver Haired Legislature.

Mr. Jackson is a man of energy and action. He is the past president of the North Junior School PTA, past vice-president of AFGE Local 1822 and the immediate past president of the Central Texas Labor Council. He has dedicated his life to working to make Waco a better community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Mr. Eddie Walter Jackson, Jr., and offer my heartfelt appreciation for a life dedicated to service to the Central Texas Labor Council, his community and the people of Central Texas.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT RICHARD J. DAVIDSON

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dick Davidson, President of the

American Hospital Association, who has announced that he will retire on January 1, 2007.

I have been privileged to know Dick Davidson for decades, since he headed the Maryland Hospital Association and I was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. During his 22 years as the first president of MHA, Dick believed strongly in the shared obligation between state government and hospitals to ensure that communities' health needs are met, and he put that belief into practice. MHA was a proactive partner with the Maryland state government in creating innovative approaches to issues of health care costs and quality, most notably the Health Services Cost Review Commission, and the MHA Quality Indicator (QI) Project, the largest national and international effort to measure and compare indicators of hospital performance. More than 1,900 health care organizations in the United States and abroad now participate in the QI Project. I am pleased to note that the tradition of collaboration established by Davidson continues at MHA today.

In 1991, Dick Davidson was named President of the American Hospital Association, which represents 4,800 hospitals and health systems throughout the nation. At AHA, he continued to foster the tenet that hospitals and the federal government could together create ways to better serve the health needs of their communities. He assembled what is often considered the finest team of policy professionals and advocates in Washington. Davidson's tenure will also be remembered for promoting diversity in health care leadership. In 1994, AHA founded the Institute for Diversity in Health Management to expand leadership opportunities for ethnically, culturally, and racially diverse individuals, and increase the number of these individuals entering and advancing in the field. Over the past decade, the Institute has awarded more than \$110,000 in scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students, and placed candidates in residencies and fellowships at health care organizations across the country.

Among health care providers, payers, analysts, and policymakers, there is strong consensus that Dick Davidson's leadership has contributed to the improvement of the quality of health care across America. For that, the health care community and, indeed, our nation are grateful.

I also want to congratulate Dick's wife Janet, who will undoubtedly be able to spend much more time with him beginning in 2007. Janet was herself a fixture in the Maryland state house for many years, having worked for current Senate President Mike Miller and former Senate President STENY HOYER, among other distinguished elected officials. I would ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the entire Davidson family—including their three sons—Mike, Andy, and Rick—all the best as the Davidson era at the American Hospital Association draws to a close.

RECOGNIZING MR. LONNIE
EUGENE ROARK

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of my uncle, Lonnie Eugene

Roark, who passed away on April 15, 2006 at the age of 84.

Mr. Roark was born on February 11, 1922 in Missouri and grew up in Oklahoma during the Great Depression. He later moved to California and spent most of his life in the community of La Puente.

Mr. Roark was a proud veteran of our armed forces. He was stationed in Brazil during World War II while serving in the U.S. Army and went on to serve in the Philippines and Hawai'i with the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Roark's service is commemorated in the book, *Fighting Men of Oklahoma*.

Mr. Roark was like a brother to my father, Raul Solis, and was my sister, Anna Solis', godfather. His acts of kindness and dedication have inspired me and many who know him. It is a true blessing to have been raised with a role model like Mr. Roark; it is not every day that we encounter a person filled with such generosity and love.

Mr. Roark was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his wife, 3 children, 4 grand children and 3 great-grand children. He will be truly missed.

HONORING THE LATE CHARLES
WILLIAM ROGER

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a man who will long be remembered for his devotion to his family, church, community and nation. Charlie Roger of New Iberia, LA, died last month following heart complications he experienced during surgery.

A native of Lafayette and a resident of New Iberia for 15 years, Charlie was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Following his military service, Charlie continued to exemplify the Marine code of "Semper Fidelis" by serving as an officer with the Lafayette Police Department, ultimately retiring as a Captain. I came to know Charlie through his most recent service as a Court Security Officer at the Federal Court House in Lafayette, where my office is located. I will always remember his smiling face as he walked the halls of the courthouse, keeping the building safe for my staff and the many other employees who worked there every day.

Outside of his public service, Charlie also worked as a limousine driver for Mary Ellen's Bridal Shop on weekends. He was also an exceptionally talented musician, and was well known for playing the drums in his own band, "Charlie Roger and the Lafayette Playboys," or playing the scrub board with "Kenny and the Heart Breakers." Most recently, Charlie was awarded the Cajun French Music Association "First New CD of the Year 2006 Award."

In his off time, Charlie enjoyed working out and weight lifting at Red Lerille's Health Club. He was a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Community in Broussard, and also remained a member of the Marine Corps League and Fraternal Order of Police Officers.

I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to

the memory of this outstanding public servant and in offering our deepest condolences to his wife, Debbie Picard Roger; his son Charles "C.J." Jude Roger; his sister Nelda Powell; and his brother Joseph Roger.

IN HONOR OF THE VOLUNTEERS
OF SOUTHWEST HOUSING AND
THE VILLAS OF REMOND COM-
MUNITY IN DALLAS, TEXAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the generous volunteers of Southwest Housing and the Villas of Remond community in Dallas, Texas. While many volunteers in the DFW Metroplex are worthy of recognition during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, the Southwest Housing and the Villas of Remond Community have performed inspiring and commendable work through their many acts of volunteerism.

During the past year, these volunteers have served on hospitality, spiritual wellness and entertainment committees that make important decisions for their community. They have led Bible studies, exercise classes, hosted book clubs, and planned celebrations. Additionally, volunteers and residents not only shared the food and clothes with the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita evacuees, but also encouraged friends, fellow churchgoers and family members to do the same. Through their generous work they have experienced first-hand the ancient truth to give is better than to receive.

The Villas of Remond is a senior community for ages 60 and "better" that encourages its residents to live life to the fullest and share their love, laughter and wisdom with anyone in need. It is indeed an honor and privilege to have these exceptional volunteers supporting the Dallas community. I salute their leadership and look forward to hearing of their continued volunteer success stories that are so critical to the local community.

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY
THE CUBAN-AMERICAN COMMU-
NITY TO AID THE CHILDREN OF
UKRAINE ON THE 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE CHERNOBYL
TRAGEDY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last December I had the honor to lead a Congressional delegation to Ukraine. The focus of the visit was to identify humanitarian initiatives that the Cuban-American community, that I am honored to represent, could undertake to help the "Orange Revolution" as it moved forward to address the most pressing needs of the Ukrainian people.

In the fall of 2005, Undersecretary of State Paula Dobbriansky was kind enough to arrange a meeting with the First Lady of Ukraine, Katerina Yushchenko. During that meeting the First Lady made clear that one of

President Viktor Yushchenko's priorities is to improve the healthcare system in Ukraine, and that she had established a foundation, known as Ukraine 3000, for the purpose of aiding hospitals in Ukraine by securing much needed medical equipment and medicines.

The delegation I led to Kiev in early December included Dr. Stephen Lipshultz, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dianne M. Kube, Chief Administrative Officer of the Community Oncology Alliance, Sylvia Irlondo, a respected Cuban-American leader and President of Mothers and Women Against Repression, and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, President and Chairman of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and Nadia Matkiwsky, a member of the Board of Directors. These two Ukrainian-Americans have spent the last 13 years tirelessly dedicated to helping the people of Ukraine.

As a result of our visits to various pediatric hospitals in Kiev and meetings with Ukrainian government officials, including President Viktor Yushchenko, and also Mrs. Yushchenko, we identified three initiatives that would be the focus of our work during the course of 2006, the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Tragedy. First, establishing a physician exchange program with the University of Miami's School of Medicine so that physicians in Ukraine could come to the United States to meet with their counterparts and establish links of communication on the latest medical techniques, procedures and medicines. This past January the first step was taken toward creating this exchange program; six of Ukraine's leading pediatric physicians attend a national pediatric conference in Miami hosted by the University of Miami's School of Medicine. Second, helping the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, a highly respected humanitarian organization led by Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Nadia Matkiwsky, to secure medical equipment and medicines for the 20th Anniversary Airlift that the U.S. State Department is coordinating. Children of Chernobyl have an impressive reputation in working to obtain medical equipment and medicines for the neediest hospitals in Ukraine. And another initiative identified by the group, is to bring children from Ukraine who are ill to vacation at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The first Ukrainian child, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Sylvia Irlondo, already spent five days visiting the "Magic Kingdom".

I commend the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund for their dedication over the years on behalf of the people of Ukraine, especially Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky who are the heart and soul of the organization. I am also truly optimistic regarding the relationship that has been forged between physicians at the University of Miami's School of Medicine and physicians from Ukraine, and I commend Dr. Stephen Lipshultz for spearheading this worthy endeavor. I also thank Dianne Kube for her sound guidance and the countless hours she has dedicated to work on these initiatives, and Sylvia Irlondo for her generosity and constant leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as we pass this resolution commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, I am honored to say that the community I represent is committed to doing all it can to help the noble people of Ukraine as they move forward on their new democratic course.

TO NAME THE MANASSAS POST OFFICE IN HONOR OF THE LATE HONORABLE HARRY J. PARRISH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the legacy of the Honorable Harry J. Parrish by introducing legislation which would name the Manassas Post Office at 8801 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20110 the "Harry J. Parrish Post Office Building." Mr. Parrish was a member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, Virginia, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the Virginia House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

As a decorated World War II pilot, Harry was part of the British Royal Air Force. He flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

Naming the post office on Sudley Road in Manassas in his honor is an appropriate reminder to the people of Manassas of Harry's dedication to public service.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. CARL W. RAFOTH

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rafoth of Augusta, GA on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on April 21, 2006. Carl and Hylda Rafoth were married on April 21, 1936, in Youngstown, OH. Carl supported his family of four children by working at the Islay Dairy Company in Youngstown. Since then, their family has grown significantly in size, as they now have 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Their family resides throughout the country in Georgia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, where their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren hold fast to the work ethic and patriotism instilled in them by these two fine Americans.

Carl's and Hylda's many decades together exemplify our American values concerning the institution of marriage. They are committed citizens, and even in their golden years, they

have never waned in actively serving their family, their country and their community in Augusta. Their service and dedication are a model for all Americans, and I come before the House with the hopes that they had a most memorable 70th anniversary.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Yom Hashoa is a day set aside on the Jewish calendar to recall with great reverence and respect the lives of the millions of victims of the Holocaust.

More than 60 years ago, a maniacal dictator rose to power in Europe, and darkness fell upon the earth. Through a doctrine of hatred and destruction, he slew blameless, pure and innocent, men, women and children. The Nazis were intent on performing a systematic annihilation of the Jewish people. Their brutal endeavor to commit genocide was no more evident than in their zeal for murdering children.

It is a heinous crime to destroy a people's past and to annihilate their future. One can only imagine the contributions to the world lost by this act of genocide, not only for our generation but for the future generations that will now never exist.

For the survivors, the Holocaust did not end with liberation. Like the marks on their arms, their lives were forever marked by this atrocity. Those who survived faced the enormous challenge of rebuilding their lives. Many succeeded, others did not, but all would remember the horror of the crimes that were perpetrated against them. Survivors who suffered this hell are a living testament to the depths of evil to which man can fall. We must never again allow such a monstrous crime by man to be committed again.

We read in Sefer Yeshayahu, the book of Isaiah:

In my house and within my walls, I shall give them a Yad Vashem—a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; an eternal, imperishable name will I give them.

On Thursday, in the United States Capitol Rotunda, we will observe Yom Hashoa. Through our observance, we create a human monument assuring that these innocent victims will not be forgotten. We here in the United States, the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King, are privileged to enjoy the greatest freedom known to man. We must never allow ourselves to take these freedoms for granted. We must never forget the genocide and human rights abuses that have occurred and, sadly, continue to occur around the world. We must not remain silent. We must dedicate ourselves to continuing to educate people around the globe about the horrors of the Holocaust. We must be eternally vigilant that such intolerance never happens again.

God full of mercy who dwells on high
Grant perfect rest on the wings of Your Divine Presence

In the lofty heights of the holy and pure who
shine as the brightness of the heavens

to the souls of the men, women and children who were slaughtered, burned and murdered during the Holocaust for the sanctification of your name, who have gone to their eternal rest let us pray for the elevation of their souls. May their resting place be in the Garden of Eden.

Therefore, the Master of mercy will care for them under the protection of His wings for all time

And bind their souls in the bond of everlasting life.

God is their inheritance and may they rest in peace and let us say Amen.

HONORING ROBERT SILLEN FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN HEALTHCARE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my Santa Clara County colleagues Representatives MIKE HONDA and ANNA ESHOO to acknowledge and honor Robert Sillen who is retiring after a noteworthy and successful career in public health serving the residents of Santa Clara County.

In June, 1993, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, on which Congress Members LOFGREN and HONDA served, created a full-service, integrated County health care system consisting of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, Department of Custody Health Services and the Department of Alcohol & Drug Services. The Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System is responsible for a full continuum of preventive intervention and treatment services throughout the County, both directly under County auspices and through contracts with the private sector. The system is comprised of over 6,200 employees and has an annual operating budget of nearly \$1.4 billion.

Until very recently, Robert Sillen served as Executive Director and was responsible for all aspects of the system's operations, long range planning, private and public partnerships, community relations, and capital development and information systems. Mr. Sillen was fully accountable for the development of a cost effective, fully integrated system that is essential for the successful conversion to a full-service managed care delivery system in a highly competitive environment. In addition, he was responsible for designing and implementing a County-wide Medi-Cal Managed Care program in June 1996 as well as the Children's Health Initiative and Healthy Kids program in January, 2000.

Prior to his position with the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, Mr. Sillen was Executive Director of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, a 500-bed regional medical center with an operating budget of over \$800 million and 4,500 full-time equivalent employees. Services range from community based primary care satellite clinics to regional services for treatment of bums, spinal cord injuries, head trauma, neonatal intensive care, poison control and trauma, the life flight helicopter and health services for those in jail custody.

Prior to his executive director positions with the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System and the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Mr. Sillen worked at the University Hospital at the UC Medical Center in San Diego, the City Hospital Center at Elmhurst, New York and the U.S. Public Health Service in New York, New York. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Denver, Colorado and his Master's degree in Public Health from Yale University.

Robert Sillen has acted as a guardian of the virtues and spirit behind the creation of the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System. The initial challenges faced in establishing a foundation for a strong network of health providers with private, local, regional and national departments were dizzying, but achievable with Mr. Sillen at the helm. We sincerely thank him on behalf of the thousands of residents who have benefited from this system and wish him the very best upon his retirement.

EQUAL PAY DAY STATEMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the persistent gender pay gap. More than four decades ago, President Kennedy attempted to address pay disparities between men and women. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 made it unlawful for employers to pay women lower wages than men for equivalent jobs. Unfortunately, this law has not eradicated pay inequality. On average, women still earn about 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. Though women earn about 18 cents more compared to men than they did in 1963, they still face significant and intolerable wage discrimination.

Women of color face even greater discrimination on the payroll. In 2004, African American women earned 67 cents for each dollar earned by white men, and Hispanic women earned a little over half of what white men earned. These pay differences persist even in equivalent positions for employees with the same levels of education and expertise.

Worse yet, pay equality for some positions has actually lost ground in the past few years. Female managers earned less than their male counterparts in 2000 than they did in 1995. Studies have shown that even when women's career choices match those of men and they work the same number of hours in equivalent positions, they earn less than men.

Wage inequality is a major indicator of gender discrimination in our country. As an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, H.R. 1687, I feel that it is the duty of Congress to address this unacceptable gender disparity. The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen provisions of the original Equal Pay Act and would make filing for class action status less onerous.

It is well past the time when women should be receiving fair wages for the work that they do. While the overall wage disparity between men and women has decreased since the 1960s, progress has been frustratingly slow. I believe that with appropriate congressional action we can finally reach wage equality for all Americans.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express pleasure with the passage of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

What is happening in the Darfur region of Sudan is genocide. I have visited the region several times over the past couple of years, and have had the privilege to meet women and children who have suffered and who have survived. Their courage and determination to stay alive—to survive—is an inspiration and it humbles me. The atrocities being perpetrated against the innocent civilians of Darfur must be condemned in the strongest possible terms by this Congress, the Administration, and the international community.

H.R. 3127 attempts to address the dire situation in the Darfur region by reaffirming the sanctions already in place against Sudan, and by authorizing the President to block the assets and deny the visas of those deemed to be responsible for the genocide. It has taken several months to come to agreement on a version of the bill that could move forward with bipartisan support. This bill is a better bill as a result of the discussions that took place, and I am happy to support it.

During committee consideration, I successfully offered an amendment to H.R. 3127 that states that the genocide taking place in Darfur is the result of acts of terrorism, and calls on the Secretary of State to designate the Government of Sudan-supported janjaweed as a foreign terrorist organization. It also calls on the Secretary to maintain Sudan's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Subcommittee, and to Chairman Hyde and Ranking Member Lantos, for their support of my amendment.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3127 is a good bill but our effort cannot end here. By passing this legislation, we send a clear signal to the Government of Sudan, and the janjaweed, that the United States remains absolutely committed to seeing an end to the violence and genocide taking place in Darfur. However, while laws are important, they are merely words if not coupled with action—I urge the Administration to act further to stop this genocide. The people of Darfur deserve peace, and the Government of Sudan and the janjaweed militia deserve to be brought to justice and be held accountable for the crime of genocide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN DAN SCHAEFER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Congressman Dan Schaefer, who succumbed to cancer on Tuesday, April 18, 2006.

Former Republican Representative Dan Schaefer served as the Congressman from

the 6th District of Colorado for 14 years until he retired in 1998. Congressman Schaefer served on the House Commerce Committee, while he was Chairman of the Energy and Power Subcommittee, and was the senior member of the Colorado congressional delegation when he retired. His long and distinguished political career began when he was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1977, then the state Senate in 1979 before running for Congress in 1983.

Among the many causes he championed were mass-transit projects and the southwest light-rail line, and while in the Colorado State Legislature Schaefer sponsored several child protection laws. In Congress, he also helped found the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus and for his efforts the main building at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, was named in his honor. Schaefer was a major proponent of plans to deregulate the electric power, industry and to open it to competition. He fought for the cleanup of the decommissioned nuclear weapons plant at Rocky Flats, pushed for spending cuts, and worked on telecommunications issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of former Congressman Dan Schaefer who served in the House of Representatives with honor and integrity. His death is a profound loss to the community and to the causes he most admirably championed.

HONORING ELIZABETH QUINTERO

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young woman and one of my constituents, Elizabeth Quintero of Redwood City.

Elizabeth was recently selected as the California's Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year. She was chosen from among three-dozen competitors for the title because of her intelligence, positive attitude and perseverance. Elizabeth is even more extraordinary because of the battles she has won in her personal life.

Mr. Speaker, in the last five years Elizabeth has experienced more tragedy and stress than most seventeen year olds. Her father has had to endure a tragic and debilitating health diagnosis, her home was robbed and then completely destroyed by an unfortunate fire. In addition to these challenges, Elizabeth also struggled with a strong case of social anxiety that prevented her from participating in school and in her community.

Mr. Speaker, we honor Elizabeth today for the courage and optimism she showed in the face of adversity. After accompanying a friend to the local Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula she began to fight her social anxiety. This once shy girl became an active member of the Keystone Club where she attended workshops on leadership skills and public speaking. She volunteered for Community Service and Academic Programs, while excelling at school and emerging as a leader among her friends and classmates.

Elizabeth received the Youth of the Year award honoring her outstanding contributions

to the community but also overcoming personal obstacles.

Elizabeth continues to challenge herself and her friends and neighbors. On the day she was named Youth of the Year she also learned she had been accepted for admission to the University of San Francisco. This summer she will advance to the Regional Youth of the Year competition, and then to Washington, D.C. to compete for the title of National Youth of the Year, an honor that includes a \$15,000 college scholarship presented by President George W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elizabeth on this distinguished award and her promising future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REV. WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN, JR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of an American patriot, the Reverend William Sloane Coffin Jr. As a prophetic mouthpiece for God, Reverend Coffin spoke truth to power. He trumpeted the call to America to live up to its moral ideals by remembering the plight of the poor and oppressed at home and abroad. Reverend Coffin was a peace maker around the world, encouraging America and nations alike to pursue peace over war; "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Reverend Coffin fought for civil rights and was a staunch opponent of the Vietnam war in the 1960's. In Montgomery he was arrested in protest of segregation in the South; he was a disciple and advocate of civil disobedience. He believed civil disobedience could bring social and political change in the world pervaded with inequality and injustice. As an ordained Presbyterian minister he adhered to a strong sense of call to social activism. He was in the early 60s the senior minister at the historic Riverside Church in my congressional district.

His ministry focused on a variety of social and moral issues facing humanity. He drew attention to the plight of the poor, political and military power, nuclear disarmament and interfaith understanding. Reverend Coffin exemplified tremendous courage in standing up for what he believed was just and fair. He would often say that "courage is the first virtue, because "it makes all other virtues possible." Reverend Coffin was indeed courageous in his fight against genocide in certain parts of the world, particularly in Bosnia.

"Every minister is given two roles, the priestly and the prophetic." He would often remind his interviewers of this theological claim to help America and the world understand why a minister was concerned with social-political affairs. In the tumultuous years of the Vietnam war he was outspoken in opposition to the war along side another prominent minister, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He led major demonstrations in protest concerning the grave injustice and moral wrongness of the Vietnam war which garnered him international recognition. His prophetic role mandated Reverend Coffin to challenge the status quo on an international level.

In addition to serving as a senior minister, Reverend Coffin also assumed the chaplaincy

post at Yale University. At Yale, during the Vietnam war, he counseled and encouraged students to protest the draft by returning their draft cards to the Justice Department. He infuriated the Johnson administration but he stood courageous and firm. Students at Yale respected him for his genuine and sincere approach to ministry and were urged to become sensitive to social struggle around the world by championing the cause of justice and peace. He remained at Yale until 1976, when he began to work on world hunger programs.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the life of Rev. William Sloane Coffin, his life reminds America that the voice of dissent is patriotism at its best. When he engaged in debate about American social policies and practices he would often characterize them as a partner engaged in a lovers' quarrel.

COMMEMORATING EARTH DAY 2006

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Earth Day 2006, which was celebrated last Saturday, April 22.

Earth Day was established in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who firmly believed that education was the key to changing public attitudes about the environment. Since then, Earth Day celebrations have spread throughout America and to the rest of the world, with more and more people getting involved in efforts to clean and nurture the environment.

Despite Earth Day's popularity and the many programs that were created to improve the planet's health, our world is still wrought with environmental problems. We still face many pressing issues, such as protecting coastal waters from offshore drilling, preserving the Alaskan Tongass Rainforest, the Redrock lands in Utah, and resources in the Rockies.

Closer to home, we must continue to focus our efforts on restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The Bush Administration's budget proposes drastic cuts to vital initiatives, including the Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grants Program, the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, and several Farm Bill Conservation programs that help farmers reduce nutrient runoff entering the Bay. Last year, I was pleased to participate in the Living Shoreline Grants program, which involved growing seagrasses in my office that I later planted in Annapolis' Back Creek. I am also pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Enhancement Act, which will reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program and implement new water quality standards for the Bay's tributaries.

I have long supported a comprehensive, long-term, more environment-friendly energy policy that places emphasis on increasing the availability and use of renewable energy, as well as promoting greater energy efficiency that new technologies can provide. The United States needs to utilize new technologies that focus on renewable energy sources to reduce the nation's dependency on foreign oil and high gasoline prices.

Earth Day celebrations serve as important reminders that we cannot take America's natural resources for granted. I urge my colleagues to join with me in doing our part to preserve, protect, and restore our planet's natural treasures.

HONORING WILLA LIVINGSTON
CARSON

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true community leader, Willa Carson, who passed away on April 14, 2006, at age 80.

Willa was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, and moved to New York City after marrying Ernest Carson. While in New York, Willa earned her practical nursing license and worked for years in the health care industry. In 1972, Willa returned to Florida, retiring in Clearwater with her husband. However, Willa always needed to help others and was unfulfilled with retirement, so she undertook a second career teaching her passion for nursing to others.

Willa is best known for founding the Greenwood Community Health Resources Center, which she established in 1995. In the beginning, Greenwood operated out of two apartments. Today, this tremendous facility provides free treatment for nearly 600 individuals monthly who have no insurance and little money to afford health care costs. This is especially impressive because the Center only is open three days a week and all the doctors and nurses volunteer their time and expertise. While I am very familiar with the generosity of our nation's health care professionals, I know that this Center would not have been so successful without Willa's tireless efforts to help the poorest in our society.

Last month, the Greenwood Community Health Resources Center was appropriately renamed after Willa Carson. However, this was a tribute Willa did not want or welcome. Humbly, she wanted the Center to be about helping others, not personal glorification.

Willa does not need the Health Resources Center to be renamed after her for her impact on this community to be realized. Her generosity will be reflected on the faces of the countless people that she has helped. I hope her family will take solace in knowing that, in heaven, Willa's loving arms will be able to reach much further than Clearwater, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, our community truly is better off because of Mrs. Carson's contributions. Her leadership, life and legacy are truly an inspiration to everyone. I'm honored to have known her and to have called her a friend. May her memory be eternal!

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AMERICAN BUSINESS MEDIA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge American Business Media,

located in my congressional district, as it celebrates 100 years of service to business media and the American economy. ABM is the not-for-profit, global association for business information providers, including producers of magazines, Web sites and digital content, trade shows, newsletters, rich data, custom publishers, as well as conventions, conferences, seminars, trade shows. ABM's 300 member companies represent about \$20 billion in annual revenues and include such respected brands as Dow Jones, Forbes.com, The Economist, Farm Journal, Google, PC World, plus about 5,000 additional print and electronic titles, and 1,000 trade shows. Its mission is to help business information providers excel at their tasks and provide the best intelligence available to their readers—the captains of industry.

Established in 1906, ABM has a staff of specialists in governmental affairs, marketing, communications, promotion, education and finance. More than 20 active ABM member committees regularly assess developments in the industry and formulate the Association's positions on key issues. ABM hosts prestigious editorial and creative excellence awards programs, and initiates events that are focused on enhancing the knowledge of and providing services to members and the industry. ABM offers a first-rate opportunity for networking and creative peer interchange at these meetings, and brings together thousands of the best minds in business information each year.

I congratulate American Business Media on this momentous occasion and wish it continued success.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
MACLAUGHLIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William MacLaughlin of Jamestown, NY, for his many years of dedicated public service to the City of Jamestown.

William MacLaughlin is a graduate of Empire State College with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a graduate of St. Bonaventure University where he received his Masters in Education; he was hired in 1972 as a Jamestown Police Officer.

During his time as a police officer, he served on the SWAT team, eventually becoming commander of the SWAT team in 1985. He has also served as a member of the bomb squad and a member of the color guard. Officer MacLaughlin rose through the ranks and was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Jamestown in 1995 by Mayor Richard Kimball, Jr., and was later appointed as the Director of Public Safety by Mayor Sam Teresi in 2000.

Officer MacLaughlin has received several departmental and community awards including the American Legion, Department of New York, Police Officer of the Year Award, Sons of the American Revolution, Medal for Heroism as well as the Medal of Valor. He is involved in several professional organizations as well as being very active in his community.

Officer MacLaughlin retired as Chief of Police on January 7, 2006. His dedication and

excellence in public service to the Jamestown community will be missed. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARLEM CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, INC.—FAITH AT WORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a perspective that recognizes the many achievements and accomplishments attributed to the HCCI.

Since 1986, the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) has been devoted to bringing about positive change to the Harlem community as its coalition of churches remain vigilant in their efforts to revitalize the spirit of Harlem by continuing to work to improve conditions in the community.

The HCCI initiative started with a consortium of 16 ministers and has grown to a membership of nearly 100 churches. Their organization has constructed over 2,000 units of affordable housing, provided job development and training and established support groups to reinforce and assist with services to the community.

I have lived in Harlem my entire life and can attest to the success of the many initiatives undertaken by the HCCI. I have witnessed the collective conception of ideas that grew into plans that resulted in major improvements to the lives of the people of Harlem.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the achievements of the HCCI and I respectfully enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this perspective which serves to recognize the HCCI's noteworthy accomplishments as we approach the organizations' twentieth anniversary.

THE HARLEM CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, INC.: FAITH AT WORK

For the past two decades, the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) has quietly, yet methodically, changed the physical landscape and the spiritual soul of the people of the Harlem community. HCCI was founded in 1986 as a consortium of 16 Harlem churches, whose pastors and congregants had long endured the surrounding urban decay. HCCI's first President was the late Bishop Preston R. Washington, Sr. The organization grew to an organization of more than 90 churches, mosques and a synagogue.

The organization began with a grassroots planning and organizing initiative. Harlem area churches raised \$100,000 which was matched by the Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall Street. A plan for the Bradhurst community was developed by working with the Harlem Urban Development Corporation, Columbia University's Urban Technical Assistance Project and the City College Architecture Center. That plan was eventually adopted by the City of New York as the Bradhurst Urban Renewal Area Plan. The Bradhurst area had such a high level of deterioration that the blight seemed almost incurable, with rampant crime, drug addiction, abnormally short life expectancy, high infant mortality rates, population exodus, HIV/AIDS,

an unemployment rate that outstripped the national average, poor schools with alarming dropout rates, and no decent or affordable housing. The first grants to address the Bradhurst area were received from Local Initiative Support Corporation and leveraged donations raised through special church collections. The organization used the Industrial Areas Foundation method of developing an organization. Since then, HCCI's community service has been reversing these conditions concurrently, block by block.

From welfare-to-work training and placement, to adult basic education and GED prep (in collaboration with Literacy Partners), HCCI has helped hundreds of Harlem residents prepare for the workforce through its Office of Human Capital Development and trains still others to become licensed family childcare providers. Other job readiness services include computer training at HCCI's Career and Technology Center, and collaborations with Literacy Partners. The Intel Computer Clubhouse trained neighborhood kids in web design so well that they won a grant to create a Web site on the negative effects of tobacco. The city's building trade industry has welcomed graduates of the Construction Trades Academy where students learn valuable skills in construction work, including handling hazardous materials such as asbestos abatement and lead paint control.

HCCI's customer service training program proved valuable for residents who were hired at the new Pathmark Supermarket at 145th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard. Part of a \$42 million real estate initiative, HCCI's Office of Real Estate Development broke ground on the market and a 126-unit co-operative apartment complex in the heart of the Bradhurst neighborhood. Indeed, quality affordable housing has been the centerpiece of HCCI's services to the community from the very beginning. To date, approximately 2,000 units of affordable housing have been built through innovative cross sector collaborations with city and State elected officials, the NYC Housing Development Corporation, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, a host of banking institutions that include JPMorganChase, Citicorp, Roslyn Savings, the Bank of New York, Bank of America, Wachovia and Washington Mutual. Embarking on the Equitable Development initiative, JP Morgan Chase's Community Development competition awarded the \$25,000 top prize to three New School University graduate students to create an architectural design that would transform the Erbograph Building on 146th Street into a new community facility space for some of HCCI's offices and housing for the elderly.

One of the more damaging health care crises of the twentieth century has been the AIDS epidemic. Communities of color have been the hardest hit. African-American men and women are nine times more likely to die from the disease than white AIDS patients. In 2004, Central Harlem recorded 218 newly diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS. HCCI began to educate Harlem residents about HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and more recently created a pilot program called the Community Organizations and Congregations for Health Institute (COACH), offering technical assistance to five faith-based institutions to help them start nonprofits to sustain their HIV prevention services. For the past seven years, HCCI has hosted the Balm in Gilead/Annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. HCCI increases awareness through street education and outreach, presentations and workshops, and their growing Health Resource Library. HCCI's scattersite housing initiative has proved effective in housing HIV/AIDS patients, many of whom were homeless. Food stamp access programs

and other services funded by the city's Human Resources Administration have helped restore them to more productive lives.

The question is always asked whether the church can be an agent for change if it is facing all of the previously mentioned challenges. It is an uphill battle to be sure. But HCCI's 100-church membership has proven that with God's help it can be done.

THE APPOINTMENT OF EVE J. HIGGINBOTHAM, M.D. AS DEAN OF THE MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Eve J. Higginbotham on her appointment as the new Dean and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Higginbotham has long been a valued member of my Health Advisory Committee, where she has demonstrated remarkable leadership abilities.

Dr. Higginbotham received her S.B. and S.M. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her M.D. from the Harvard Medical School. In 1994, Dr. Higginbotham was appointed as Chair of the Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Department at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, becoming the first woman in the United States to head a university-based ophthalmology department. Previously, she served on the University of Illinois faculty as Chief of the Glaucoma Clinic and an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Higginbotham has also served on numerous boards, including those of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Helen Keller Foundation. Her strong commitment to improving health care is evident from her work with the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, where as Director of Outreach Services she established a program through which medical students screen patients in their communities for glaucoma. The program, Student Sight Savers, has been a great success and is currently in operation at more than thirty medical schools nationwide.

Throughout her career, Dr. Higginbotham has received numerous awards and honors, including the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award in 2004. She has received the Suzanne Veroneaux-Troutman Award and the Roman Barnes Achievement Award. She has consistently been listed among the Best Doctors in Baltimore and America for over a decade.

The Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) is an historically black institution established to recruit and train physicians, scientists, and public health professionals committed to primary health care. Founded in 1975, the Morehouse School of Medicine admitted its first class in 1978, became an independent, four-year medical school in 1981, and was fully accredited in 1985. Since its founding, it has graduated 602 physicians, 68 percent of whom are primary care practitioners and 84 percent of whom practice in economically depressed areas. I am confident that Dr.

Higginbotham will help continue and further shape the legacy of the Morehouse School of Medicine as it works to fulfill the needs of America's under served communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Higginbotham is both a renowned expert in her field and an outstanding public servant. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to congratulate Dr. Eve J. Higginbotham on her new role as Dean and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. This week, Maryland's loss is Atlanta's gain, and I wish to stand with the many Marylanders who are grateful to Dr. Higginbotham for her tremendous service to our community.

HONORING PVT. JODY MISSILDINE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true American hero, Pvt. Jody Missildine. Tragically, on April 8, 2006, Jody was killed while serving in Tal Afar, Iraq. He was 19 years old.

Jody's dream was to see the world and one day go to college. However, he selflessly did not want to burden his grandparents, Shirley and Melvin, with the financial responsibility that comes with world travel and a four-year degree. He saw the Armed Forces as the best way to achieve his goals, and most importantly, on his own terms. So while still attending high school, Jody signed up for the Army and immediately following his graduation, he left his home in Plant City, Florida, to begin his service to our nation.

Soon Jody's division was deployed to Iraq and despite being several thousand miles away from each other, Jody did his best to stay close to the family he loved so dearly, calling home nearly every week. Always concerned for the well-being of others, Jody rarely spoke about the daily events in Iraq, but rather, he focused his attention on the safety of his family. On Friday, April 7, Jody expressed concerns about Iraq to his grandmother, or Nanna as he called her, during their telephone conversation. Sadly, the next day while on patrol in the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar, an explosive device detonated near his convoy and killed Jody.

Jody embodied everything that this great country stands for: integrity, hard work, determination, and compassion. He always put others ahead of himself and I am honored to know that this fine young man helped ensure America's continuing independence and security.

Mr. Speaker, as we have seen throughout the history of this nation, freedom is not free; it comes with a heavy price. The sacrifices of brave men and women like Jody have guaranteed this country's continuing liberty. And just as Jody did all he could to protect his family while he was alive, I know he is watching over them from heaven.

I know words can not help fill the emptiness that the Missildine family feels from the loss of Jody. However, I hope they take solace in knowing that our nation is truly stronger and greater for having a man of Jody's character serve it.

May God bless the Missildine family and may He continue to watch over the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHAN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2006"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the "Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2006" which would authorize \$45 million each year from FY2007 through FY2009 for programs in Afghanistan that benefit "women and girls as well as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs. The funding would be directed toward important needs including medical care, education, vocational training, protection from violence, legal assistance, and civil participation. This legislation was introduced earlier this year in the Senate by Senator BARBARA BOXER (D-CA).

Women's rights in Afghanistan have fluctuated greatly over the years. Women have bravely fought the forces of extremism at various points in the country's turbulent history. At one time, women were scientists and university professors. They led corporations and nonprofit organizations in local communities.

While the Afghan constitution guarantees equality for Afghan women, throughout Afghanistan, women continue to face intimidation, discrimination, and violence. The United States has an obligation to ensure that women and girls have the opportunities that they were denied under the Taliban and that the gains that have been made are not lost in the coming months and years. It is imperative that we provide the support needed to ensure that the rights of women are protected in the new Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY GADEN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Gaden, a resident of Chautauqua County and the City of Jamestown for the honor of the Team Spirit Award.

Ms. Gaden is a very active member of the Chautauqua County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). She was selected for this award because of her outstanding volunteer work and amazing spirit.

Nancy is best known for her musical abilities. She can always be found brightening the lives of people by way of her innovative approach to music. Wherever Nancy goes to perform she brings rhythmic instruments and passes them out to everyone in the crowd. Regardless of a person's mental or physical state they receive an instrument and can always find a way to express themselves through it. Ms. Gaden is always an upbeat, motivated and cheerful person. She is an inspiration to everyone she meets. The outlet that she provides by way of music is so important because it allows everyone to participate and be part of the entertainment. She touches people's lives wherever she goes and her presence and music brighten everyone's day.

For all of her volunteer work and her willingness to touch the lives of others I commend

her, and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial from the April 11, 2006 New York CaribNews entitled "Civil Rights Struggle Far From Over: NAACP Remains In Forefront, Almost A Century After Its Creation"; that praises the longevity and extreme effectiveness of the most influential civil rights organization in the United States known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or the NAACP.

Since its inception the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was poised for a long, tumultuous and rewarding history. Although it may be possible to chronicle the challenging and harrowing legacy of the NAACP, the real story of the Nation's most significant civil rights organization lies in the hearts and minds of the people who would not stand still while the rights of America's people of color were denied.

The history of the NAACP is one of blood, sweat and tears. From bold investigations of mob brutality, protests of mass murders, segregation and discrimination, to testimony before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African Americans from the ballot box, it was the talent and tenacity of the NAACP members that saved lives and changed many negative aspects of American society. While much of its history is chronicled in books, articles, pamphlets and magazines, the true movement lies in the faces—black, white, yellow, red, and brown—united to awaken the conscientiousness of a people, and a nation. This is the legacy of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, This article that I enter today reiterates the facts that the civil rights struggle is far from over as it proudly details from history a few of the organization's past successes. I am confident that such leaders as Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP and Karen Boykin-Towns, President of the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP will continue to keep the legacy alive and also keep the NAACP in the forefront, as progress and accomplishments continue, for years to come.

[From the New York CaribNews Editorial, April 11, 2006]

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

It was a succinct and forceful reminder. And it came from a person who knows the issues and from an organization that has led the fight for respect for Black people's civil rights and political liberties. "There is still a lot of civil rights work to be done," was the way Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, put it in an interview with this newspaper. "Many people believe the passing of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott-King and other

icons of the movement signals that the task is over," he added. "Nothing could be further from the truth." Well said!

Anyone looking at the state of Black America, the lack of jobs in Black communities, limited access to adequate health care, a dire shortage of affordable housing, the intolerance of tens of millions of whites, the virulent strains of racism, the glaring attempts to cast young Black men as villains, the policy of cutting off much needed federal, state and local government assistance to families that need it the most and the poor schools that saturate our communities would readily endorse Gordon's marching orders, if you will.

The NAACP is in an excellent position to assess the needs and to address them. And they have earned our support.

Founded on February 12, 1909 by a multi-racial group of activists, who answered the "Call" to action, the NAACP has been at the helm of the long struggle from that historic occasion. We expect it to continue its important work for at least another century.

Turn back some of the pages of history and the record of America's largest and oldest civil rights organization would become clear. A handful of examples, in:

1913 when President Woodrow Wilson officially sanctioned segregation in the federal government, a horrified NAACP launched a nationwide protest.

1915 the NAACP took to the streets and the barricades to condemn D.W. Griffith, the movie producer, for his "inflammatory and bigoted silent film, "Birth of a Nation," which today draws rave reviews from white critics for what they call his "creativity" while ignoring the bigoted nature of the film's content.

1922 In an unprecedented step, the NAACP placed large advertisements in many of the nation's major newspapers to focus national attention on the despicable and inhuman practice of lynching.

1935, NAACP lawyers Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall battled successfully in the courts to have Black students admitted to the University of Maryland.

1939 When the Daughters of the American Revolution prevented world famous soprano, Marian Anderson, from performing at their Constitution Hall, the NAACP sprung into action. It moved the concert to the Lincoln Memorial and 75,000 persons attended.

1948, the organization led the fight that forced President Harry Truman to ban racial discrimination by the federal government, especially in the military.

1954, the NAACP won the landmark case before the Supreme Court that forced an end to segregation in public schools. Brown vs. Board of Education stands today as a battering ram against official segregation.

1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, which gave Blacks the unfettered right to participate in the electoral process as voters and candidates. The NAACP was a driving force behind its enactment.

1985, it led a massive anti-apartheid rally in New York that dramatized the plight of millions of Blacks in South Africa.

1997, the organization launched its "Economic Reciprocity Program to fight against conservative efforts in Congress and the courts to end affirmative action.

2000, at the helm of a march by 50,000 persons to protest the flying of the confederate flag over state buildings. It was the largest civil rights demonstration ever held in the South. On and on we can cite chapter and verse about the successes and indeed the relevance of this noble institution whose effectiveness was demonstrated in almost every section of the country and in many nations in different parts of the world.

As the NAACP itself has pointed out, "from the ballot box to the classroom the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this great organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African-Americans would be heard." We couldn't have said it any better.

If the Association's history was built on the blood, sweat and tears of its members and supporters who believe in its vision then it has earned its place in our minds and hearts.

Gordon is coming to New York to hail the resuscitation of the Brooklyn Branch, a development which comes a few years before the centennial anniversary of the NAACP itself and which sends a strong and positive signal to people around the country that the organization is vigorous and its future is secure.

We extend our congratulations to Gordon and to the officers and members of the Brooklyn branch that's led by Karen Boykin-Towns.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to America's working men and women. These are the mineworkers, firefighters, nurses, janitors, postal employees, and hundreds of other workers who often are exposed to serious injury or even death while on the job. Friday, April 28, is Workers Memorial Day, a time when we remember the thousands of Americans who have been killed or injured while doing their jobs.

I also want my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in taking a moment to remember Jeffrey Wroten, a Maryland Division of Correction's officer who was killed in January while guarding a hospitalized patient.

This also has been a deadly year for coal miners. In January, 12 miners died during the Sago Mine tragedy, and, Nation Wide, 24 coal miners have lost their lives this year. For the first time since 1994, there has been an increase in workplace fatalities. In 2005, more than 5,700 workers were killed on the job and more than 50,000 Americans died from occupational diseases.

We pledge to them that we will rededicate our efforts to fight for safe working conditions; we pledge to them that we will fight for decent wages; and we pledge to them that we will make sure they have good pensions and health care benefits.

I also want to commend the many unions throughout the Nation that work everyday to protect American workers. The best way to help ensure worker safety is to make sure workers have the freedom to join unions so they can fight for their rights.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring America's working men and women by ensuring they have the rights and protections they need to stay safe on the job.

RECOGNIZING MS. KELLY SMITH AS MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of an educator in Baltimore County. Ms. Kelly Smith, chair of the English Department at Dulaney High School in Timonium, MD, is the recipient of the prestigious 2005–06 Milken Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award was established by Lowell and Michael Milken. They created the award to celebrate and reward people in the education system showing exemplary work.

This award, acknowledged in Teacher Magazine as the "Oscars of Teaching" was designed to recognize people in the education system who have exceptional talent. Recipients play an instrumental role in developing new and inventive programs of study. These educators help to develop not just the curriculum, but also the students' confidence and self worth.

Dulaney's Kelly Smith has made great strides in the school's English Department. Her tremendous contributions have aided in the school's academic success. She developed "One Book, One Dulaney," a book club, in which students, teachers and parents participate. Throughout the year the club chooses a book to read and later discusses it, opening the lines of communication on all levels.

Ms. Smith also developed and co-chaired Students Organized for Academic Success. SOAR gives assistance to challenged students showing potential for scholastic achievement. She holds study sessions on Saturdays to prepare aspiring college students for the college entrance exam, the SATs.

Under Ms. Smith's leadership, test scores have greatly increased. She implements critical reading, thinking and vocabulary in her classroom. She also incorporates a "Readers' Theatre Project" giving students an opportunity to learn about literature through performance, writing and acting. This creates a new dimension of learning for students. They become a part of the process, which is both fun and educational.

I believe education is the key to success. Today's youth are the future of this country. People like Ms. Smith are shaping the leaders of tomorrow. I applaud all of those who devote their lives to the betterment of the education system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to commend Ms. Kelly Smith for winning the 2005–06 Milken Educator Award. She is truly an inspiration.

EIGHTY YEARS OF RAZZLE- DAZZLE

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, a son of Massachusetts celebrated his 80th birthday in March.

Bob Crane, who won 11 statewide elections and held elective office for 34 years, is being feted by friends and family for a lifetime of public service and his unbeatable joy of life and politics.

Bob began his service to his country over 60 years ago when he enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 18 during World War II. Bob is a decorated war hero and fought in the bloodiest battle of World War II in Okinawa. This son of Irish immigrants returned after the war to Boston where he attended Boston College, married his lovely Mary, had five great children and began a memorable career in politics.

First elected to the state legislature, Bob served an unprecedented 26 years as State Treasurer. Bob left office in 1991 but, as is often the case with extraordinary people, the best was yet to come. Bob entered the business world to become the CEO of the Nation's largest food brokerage firm, but continued his lifelong habit of being a volunteer entertainer at homes for the elderly, children and the needy in the Boston area with his wonderful group, the Treasury Notes. Some of his most ardent admirers are people who no longer see the caring hand of friendship and support in their lives.

Bob Crane has been called an equal opportunity schmoozer and is known as a bipartisan charmer. He answers his critics with a warm grin and a confidence that any negatives directed at him will bounce off like water on the back of the ducks in the Boston Common. He has won the admiration of both Republicans and Democrats at the State and national levels and his fans include this Ohioan who has joined him in singing the Findlay Ohio classic, "Down by the Old Mill Stream" to the delight of various political crowds.

A Boston Globe columnist once wrote, Crane is a full-plumage specimen of an endangered species: the warm-blooded, pre-Watergate politician who attends wakes, sings with a robust Irish tenor at weddings and nursing homes, and charms even his enemies with generosity and a smile as big as the Ritz.

Although Bob Crane is a Democrat and I am a Republican, and he loves the Red Sox while I am a Tiger fan, we share a mutual pleasure in golf; I agree with Mike Barnicle, the well-known columnist who wrote that Bob is one politician "who can still smile, who still thinks that politics means people, and one who takes his business but not himself that seriously."

Bob has been called the "Johnny Carson of Massachusetts politics," and having seen how he wins over even his toughest critics, I have to agree. Happy Birthday, Bob. Here's to 80 more years of razzle-dazzle.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR MARIO GONZÁLEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Oscar Mario González, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González is an independent journalist and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian

Cuba. His peaceful, pro-democracy activities and truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, the dictatorship forcefully represses those who bravely support freedom and rise in resistance to the despotic regime.

According to Reporters Without Borders, on March 24, 2005, Mr. González was summoned and questioned by regime agents, who threatened that he would not be able to see his family again if he continued practicing as an independent journalist. Despite these gangster tactics and heinous threats, Mr. González continued to demand basic human rights for the people of Cuba.

As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on July 22, Mr. González was arrested as he tried to participate in a peaceful demonstration outside the French Embassy in Havana, demanding the release of political prisoners in Cuba. As part of this vicious crackdown, over 30 brave opponents were arrested at home, on their way to the demonstration or on the sidelines of the gathering.

According to CubaNet, Mr. González has been charged with violating Law 88. This is the same brutal, sham law that the tyrannical regime used to wrongly convict many of the pro-democracy activists arrested in March 2003. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Gonzalez is still awaiting trial for supposed "crimes."

On April 26, 2006, The Miami Herald published the following moving letter from Mr. González to his daughter:

In all the years that I have been by your side, you have never known me to pose a threat to anyone or anything, yet today I am writing to you from prison.

Neither one of us, in writing to each other for so many years, ever imagined we be doing it from a prison cell.

Such is life around these parts! Anything and everything can happen in this green island that so few really know about, weaving instead fantasies fed by the Cuban government's propaganda.

The reasons for my imprisonment would be incomprehensible to anyone living in the society you live in, but they are totally understandable to a Cuban.

I had the temerity to criticize and question the government of my country and to denounce its totalitarian character before the world. I did it in the only way I know, peacefully, with words.

For that, the Cuban government classifies us as criminals and calls us mercenaries and agents of U.S. imperialism. I swear to you that I have never had so much as a private conversation with any official of the United States or of any other country, for that matter.

Also, the only monies I have been paid from the only press agency for which I have ever worked, Cubanet, scarcely cover my few material needs.

The real reason for my confinement is to have denounced my country's government to a Cuban press agency in Miami, since the news media inside Cuba are closed to those, who like myself, exhibit independent criteria. Cuban media are only open to sycophants and apologists for the regime.

My conscience impels me to expose the abuses to which Cubans have been subject for more than 47 years now.

I never thought my modest contribution to the future of Cuba would go very far.

I'm a simple citizen who tried to make public the brutal nature of the Cuban gov-

ernment, thinking that would be my small contribution to the future of Cuba.

How was I to know my humble purpose would land me in prison at age 62 and in poor health?

My love for my country, for liberty and democracy, are the real causes for my imprisonment.

If some day you hear me say something that contradicts what I have said so far here, know that it is not your father speaking. It would be another man, reduced, drugged or in the throes of fear, and obligated to say whatever they wanted him to say under pressure of threats and blackmail.

I hope some day we can see each other again in our country, with liberty to walk down the street holding hands and looking to the future, without fear or hate.

Teach my grandson, next to the love of God and neighbor, the devotion to human rights and liberty so that he will never put up with injustice and abuses.

May God bless you, and may He allow me to kiss you soon.

Mr. González is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. His letter exemplifies the Cuban desire to live in liberty, free of the tyrannical repression imposed on them by the murderous despot. Read the strength of this letter, Mr. González knows the violence, abuse, and repression that will be used to try to break him. Yet he stands strong in the strength of his conviction: "My conscience impels me to expose the abuses to which Cubans have been subject for more than 47 years now." Mr. González is an apostle of freedom for Cuba.

Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and individual liberty are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. González, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. González is languishing in the grotesque squalor of the gulag because he desires freedom for all Cubans. My Colleagues, read his letter often. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Mario González and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to create the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. Senator ALLEN is introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

We remember the words of Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address:

We cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground winds its way along U.S. Route 15 from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Jefferson's home of Monticello, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Starting

as a trail used by the Susquehannock and Iroquois, America's early history can literally be traced along this corridor. Jefferson's Monticello, Madison's Montpelier, Monroe's Oak Hill and Ashlawn Highland, Zachary Taylor's homes, Eisenhower's Cottage, Teddy Roosevelt's Cabin, John Marshall's home, General George Marshall's home, and Camp David are situated along this route also dotted with numerous Civil War battlefields and sites from the underground railroad.

Designation of this historic route as a National Heritage Area will create a partnership between the Federal, State, and local governments as well as local civic organizations to commemorate, conserve and promote the history and resources along the Route 15 corridor between Gettysburg and Monticello. It will help link national parks to historical sites, package tourism opportunities, and provide financial and technical support for sites in the corridor.

This historic corridor includes a significant part of the 10th District of Virginia, which I am proud to represent. I echo the sentiments of author and historian David McCullough when he said that "[t]his is the ground of our Founding Fathers. These are the landscapes that speak volumes—small towns, churches, fields, mountains, creeks and rivers with names such as Bull Run and Rappahannock. They are the real thing, and what shame we will bring upon ourselves if we destroy them."

This bill is modeled after the legislation Senator WARNER and I introduced which created the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District in the Shenandoah Valley in 1996. Through that legislation, the Civil War battlefield sites in the Valley are being preserved. As with that bill, local, State and Federal officials, working along with landowners and business leaders will be able to better promote the history of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground attracting tourism and an appreciation for the unique history of this area.

I would like to thank the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership which has been working to forge partnerships that span the four States that fall within the proposed boundaries of the heritage area. This group has laid the groundwork in identifying the significant historical properties within such a concentrated area along U.S. Route 15. Dozens of towns and counties along the corridor have offered letters of support as have local civic groups. The Virginia General Assembly also has approved a resolution of support.

Thomas Jefferson in his Notes of the State of Virginia said:

You stand on a very high point of land. On your right comes up the Shenandoah, having ranged along the foot of the mountain a hundred miles to seek a vent. On your left approaches the Potomac, in quest of a passage also. In the moment of their junction, they rush together against the mountain, rend it asunder, and pass off to the sea. The first glance of this scene hurries our senses into the opinion that this earth has been created in time, that the mountains were formed first, that the rivers began to flow afterwards, that in this place, particularly, they have been dammed up by the Blue Ridge of mountains, and have formed an ocean which filed the whole valley; that continuing to rise they have at length broken over this spot, and have torn the mountains down from its summit to its base. The piles of rocks on each hand, but particularly on the Shenandoah, the evident marks of their

disrupture and avulsion from their beds by the most powerful agents of nature, corroborate the impression. But the distant finishing, which nature has given to the picture, is of a very different character. It is a true contrast to the foreground. It is as placid and delightful as that is wild and tremendous. For the mountain being cloven asunder, she presents to your eye, through the cleft, a small catch of smooth, blue horizon, at an infinite distance in the plain country, inviting you, as it were, from the riot and tumult roaring around, to pass through the breach and participate in the calm below.

The landscape Jefferson depicts has been inspirational to American leaders for hundreds of years. From Susquehannock Indian trading routes and to Revolutionary War battles; from the homes of the founding fathers to the first brave pioneers to make a home beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains; from the Civil War battles which threatened to divide the union to the underground railroad, our Nation was forged along this route. From Blue Ridge Mountains to the west and the fertile Piedmont to the east of the corridor the route in many ways exhibits the birth and development of our Nation's economy, social movements and political landscape. Perhaps even more significant than the battlefields that cluster along the route are the documents penned in the homes along the corridor. The Declaration of Independence, the Monroe Doctrine and the Marshall plan have influenced not only this Nation, but the entire world.

Every American citizen should take a trip along this route so that they know not only from where our Nation has come, but also to where we are going.

As we come upon the 400th anniversary of America's birthplace at Jamestown, I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TAX INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the District of Columbia Tax Incentives Improvement Act of 2006. The legislation builds on and adds to federal tax incentives I first got through Congress in 1997 in order to help produce residential and business stability and growth. These tax credits have surpassed the city's highest hopes with a renewed and replenished residential and business tax base to show for it. However, this bill is necessary if this growth is to continue to make up for the fact that the District is not a state.

Studies and investigation by experts widely agree that the D.C. credits have been very successful and have been the single most important factor both in stemming residential flight and in stimulating commercial development in the applicable neighborhoods. However the changes are appropriate to: reduce but target the credits to poor neighborhoods not yet reached; increase the efficiency of the incentives; achieve increased leverage from city and other federal resources; and provide

more incentive to purchase homes given the large increase in housing prices in the District.

The legislation would extend the life of the D.C. Enterprise Zone (EZ) Benefits to 2009 to put the District on par with the other cities that have empowerment zones and will allow the city to fully realize and assess the effectiveness of the incentives and eliminate the continuing uncertainty that has plagued the program. There was a disruption of economic activity and planning by the business sector when Congress did not immediately renew those provisions that expired at the end of 2003. The District is experiencing this setback again as H.R. 4297, the Tax Reconciliation Act of 2005, has not yet been passed and the District tax provisions are extended in that bill.

The improved EZ incentives will target the areas of greatest need; align the Zone boundaries with areas designated for concentrated investment by the Mayor's Great Streets Initiative; and more effectively connect the unemployed with job opportunities by limiting the Employment Credit to those businesses that employ persons residing in those census tracts that have unemployment rates twice that of the national average.

The legislation also asks for a triple tax exemption for District bonds which would allow the District to issue bonds at lower interest rates and put D.C. on par with other "stateless" jurisdictions, including Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands, with no loss of revenue to the federal treasury. Currently, bonds issued by the District are exempt from federal and District taxes, but subject to taxation by state and local governments for bondholders located outside the District.

With the first-time homebuyer tax credit, this bill raises the \$5,000 credit for a first-time homebuyer in the District to \$10,000 to help meet sharply increased home prices that are driving many lower middle and middle income taxpayers from the city. Senator TRENT LOTT raised the amount in the Senate bill several years ago, but that bill did not pass the House. The homebuyer credit and the economic development occurring in the District have been almost entirely responsible for significantly stemming taxpayer, residential and business flight, bringing both in significant numbers to the District. However, the improvements in my bill are essential if the District is to achieve the 100,000 new residents necessary to sustain its stability that the former D.C. control board said was necessary.

The federal tax incentives provided under the Enterprise Zone and homebuyer credit programs will be critical to the continuation of the District's essential fiscal partnership with the federal government, which seeks to diversify the D.C. economy, reverse the continuing rise in the unemployment rate in significant portions of the city, strengthen and diversify the District's narrow tax base, and address its structural fiscal imbalance.

The D.C. Enterprise Zone tax incentives and the homebuyer credit alone cannot solve these problems. But by extending and improving these measures, Congress can continue to make a low-cost, efficient and effective contribution to the District's economic well being.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVILIAN DEATHS AT QANA, LEBANON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the violent death of innocent civilians not involved in military hostilities is an appalling human tragedy. For decades, the violence in the Middle East has claimed a multitude of innocent civilian victims: Men, women and children, Arab and Israeli. It is with great sorrow that we remember one such incident that occurred just over ten years ago in Qana, Lebanon. A number of my constituents lost precious relatives on that day, April 18, 1996. Aboudi and Hati Bitar of Dearborn, Michigan, ages 7 and 9, were visiting their grandmother at Qana when they were killed. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Qana incident, we solemnly remember and mourn the loss of these innocent children and the hundreds of others who were killed or wounded on that tragic day. On behalf of Michigan's 14th Congressional District, my family and I offer our support and prayers to the Bitar family and to the many others who lost loved ones at Qana.

When it comes to civilian deaths, violent hostilities play no favorites. I call on my colleagues to pause to remember the civilian victims that the violence in the Middle East has claimed on all sides. Let us remind ourselves that this carnage among the innocent will continue until America makes a stronger effort to help resolve the issues that have bred the violence there.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Polish American War Veterans located in Caseyville, Illinois.

The year 1946 saw our Nation's veterans return home from serving their country during World War II. During that year, a group of Polish American veterans in East St. Louis, Illinois gathered to form an organization that would recognize the contributions of Polish Americans during the war, celebrate their Polish heritage and assist veterans, their families and other organizations within their community.

The first discussions took place at Steve Mizulski's S.M. Tavern and the first organizational meeting was held at the Polish Hall in East St. Louis. Soon after this meeting, the Polish American War Veterans organization was chartered by the State of Illinois.

With the formation of the PAWV a slate of officers was installed. Stanley Gula was the first Commander and other officers were: Stanley Boryczko, Vice Commander, Joseph Skowron, Adjutant, Michael Bartosz, Quartermaster and Adam Wondolowski, Sergeant-At-Arms. Initial charter members were: Walter

Kloczak, Les Kloczak, Louis Skosky, Tony Wondolowski, Ted Skrabacz, John Babinski, Aloysius Szablowski, Edward Cich and Ed Wondolowski.

The Polish Hall was the home for the PAWV from its founding, into the 1960s. The American Legion Hall in Fairmont City, Illinois served as the PAWV home until 1979, when the permanent home was built in Caseyville, Illinois.

During their years of service, the organization has held a number of events to raise funds, celebrate their Polish heritage and to provide family and recreational opportunities in their community. These have included organizing teams for bowling and baseball leagues, holding dances and golf tournaments and participating in many parades. They continue to offer "care packages" to veterans who are hospitalized or in nursing homes.

In 1999, the PAWV formed an Honor Guard that performs at area events and provides full military honors for veterans' funerals. This unit has received many honors and commendations from area civic and veterans groups.

The Polish American War Veterans have been an active and involved part of our community for 60 years. The service they gave to their country did not stop when they retired from active military duty. They continue to live by the motto, "Still Serving and Proud to be Polish."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Polish American War Veterans and to wish the best to them for continued service in the future.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the University of Wisconsin men's hockey team, NCAA champions for the sixth time in the program's history. This is the first national championship for the Badgers since 1990, and also the first under head coach Mike Eaves. Coach Eaves previously won a national title as a player when he was the Badgers' team captain in 1977, and also coached the United States teams to their first gold medals at the 2002 World Under-18 Championship and the 2004 World Junior Championship. Coach Eaves' latest honor is being named the head coach of the United States Men's National Team.

This championship caps off a remarkable season for the Badgers. Senior assistant captain defenseman Tom Gilbert tied for the national lead in goals by a defenseman, and scored the most points by a UW defenseman in almost ten years. Gilbert was named to the All-American second team, and was joined there by sophomore center Joe Pavelski. Pavelski led the team in scoring during the season, and also became just the ninth player in Badgers history to score 100 points in his first two years.

Junior goalie Brian Elliott was named a first-team All-American. Elliott led the nation in every significant category of goaltending statistic, including goals-against-average, save percentage, and winning percentage, en route

to being named a finalist for the Hobey Baker Player of the Year award. He also recorded eight shutouts, including two in the NCAA Tournament's regional rounds, helping Elliot earn Most Outstanding Player honors for the Midwest Regional.

During the Frozen Four Championship in Milwaukee, it was Badgers' junior forward Robbie Earl who proved the Most Outstanding Player. Earl scored three goals combined in the semi-finals and finals, including the game-winning goal in the semi-final game and a tying goal in the final game.

After the Badger women's hockey team won their national championship two weeks before the men, several players joked that they had stolen for Wisconsin the title of the "State of Hockey" from Minnesota. After the men's team completed the NCAA hockey sweep for UW, Athletic Director Barry Alvarez put it more simply: "We own college hockey."

TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the memory of those murdered during the Holocaust.

During that dark period, the nations of the world stood still as millions were massacred. Every year we come together and speak of how we shall "Never Forget." We talk of how we may honor their memory by never allowing such unspeakable crimes of genocide to be committed once again.

I fear we may not be doing their memory justice. Even as the United States has officially declared that genocide is occurring in Sudan, we stand concerned, but need to do much more to stop the bloodshed. Have we not learned from the horrors committed by Nazi Germany? How can we observe the rampant campaign of rape and genocide in Darfur without acting?

My heart and prayers go out to those who survived the Holocaust as well as those who were coldly murdered. We must honor them not just with words, but also by our actions. Over the next few days, hundreds of thousands of Americans will converge on Washington to demand that the US act to stop the genocide in Darfur. Let us honor the memory of those who were murdered during the Holocaust by doing everything we can to protect the people of Darfur.

RECOGNITION OF AFRICA MALARIA DAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize Africa Malaria Day, declared on April 25, 2000 by 43 African heads of state. That declaration marked the end of a 3-day summit called to renew and re-invigorate Africa's commitment to defeating malaria, a disease that takes a terrible toll on the African

continent. It renewed a commitment to exploit all means possible to finally tame the disease that kills more African children than any other single disease. It recognized the massive impact of malaria and the potential for reducing that impact. It affirmed African leaders' intent to remove roadblocks to malaria control and called for more active participation by the international community.

UNICEF and the World Health Organization estimate that malaria kills from 1 million to 2 million people every year, most of them young children and pregnant women in Africa. Along with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, malaria remains one of the three biggest infectious disease killers in the world today.

Effective weapons in this fight include prompt access to effective treatment, increased use of locally appropriate means of mosquito control such as insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, early detection of and response to epidemics, and improved prevention and treatment of malaria in pregnant women. To make a sustained impact against malaria we need a vaccine.

There has never been a licensed malaria vaccine, but great progress toward that end is now being made, as evidenced by last year's results of a malaria vaccine clinical trial in Mozambique. However, people who need the vaccine the most are infants and children in developing countries. This means that market forces by themselves cannot drive malaria vaccine development. Ensuring the successful development of a vaccine for a disease that primarily affects the poorest people in the world requires public funding for research and development as well as funding for vaccine purchase once malaria vaccines are licensed. As a nation, we must take the challenge offered by African heads of state in 2000 and Bill Gates last fall to greatly increase funding for the development of new tools to defeat malaria, including a vaccine.

Global and national efforts to control malaria are making a difference. Lives are being saved and the movement to finally control malaria in Africa is picking up momentum. Evidence of this includes the increasing level of support for malaria control by the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, by USAID and the President's Malaria Initiative. But more and broader support is needed to achieve the goal of ending deaths from malaria in the shortest time possible. For each year we delay, another one to two million lives are lost.

Today, Africa Malaria Day, the equivalent of seven large planetloads of children died from malaria. Most of these children were under the age of 5. This is a tragedy of immense proportions. While it is deeply saddening, we cannot let its sheer magnitude paralyze us into complacency. Knowing about these deaths impassions me to do everything I can. We must ensure adequate support for existing and new malaria control tools to prevent more deaths, today, tomorrow, and into the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. BOB SCHULTZ

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost

a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Bob Schultz, otherwise known as "Mr. Mardi Gras," was a musical legend in Mobile. Arriving in Mobile in 1960, Bob quickly distinguished himself as the sound of carnival playing swing era music on both the clarinet and saxophone. In 1976, he organized the Bob Schultz Big Band. He and his band have played at countless mystic society balls, weddings, and other events over the last three decades. They were also a staple at the Riverview Plaza Sunday brunch.

One wedding, in particular, stands out in my memory. Bob and his band played "Stars Fell on Alabama" for my new bride and me to lead the dance. To say Bob Schultz will be missed is a considerable understatement.

Bob Schultz and his band members also found time to perform for many charities including: the Child Advocacy Center, United Way, the Taste of Mobile, the Alabama Desert Storm Heroes Welcome Home Committee, and the Cathedral Towers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a fixture of Mobile Mardi Gras. Bob will be deeply missed by his family—his two brothers, William Schultz and Irving Schiff; and his sister, Irene Karasevich—as well as the countless friends and associates he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS AND
EMPLOYEES OF THE CONTAINER
RESEARCH CORPORATION ON
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise to honor the founders and employees of the Container Research Corporation on the celebration of their 50th anniversary on this Saturday, April 29, 2006. The Container Research Corporation is located in the small town of Glen Riddle, Pennsylvania, in the 7th Congressional District that I represent.

The Container Research Corporation, CRC, was founded in 1956. At its helm were the young, innovative minds of Stan Rines, Sr. and Bill Swan, Sr., talented businessmen and engineers. Mr. Rines and Mr. Swan designed and patented modern high tech metal containers that replaced existing commercial and military wooden crates. I am pleased to report that Mr. Rines and Mr. Swan, now in their eighties, still own and manage the growing company, with 140 employees at three facilities.

The Container Research Corporation was an early pioneer of military packaging for large aircraft parts. Over their 50 years of service they have excelled in the research, design and manufacturing of aerospace maintenance platforms, storage and shipping containers to worldwide aerospace customers. CRC has produced containers for the Pershing Missiles, the Pickatinny Arsenal artillery shells, nuclear fuel rods, all styles of helicopter blades, jet engines and most recently the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Jet. They have partnered with such companies as Westinghouse, Boeing, Bell, Sikorsky and the U.S. military.

As the Vice-Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and the Homeland Security Committee, I have seen first-hand the positive effects of the Container Research Corporation's incredible work ethic and upstanding patriotism. They have been a strong and consistent partner in strengthening not only our national economy, but our national defense and security as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have within my district one of the founding companies for modern aerospace storage and shipping containers. Our Nation owes Mr. Rines, Mr. Swan and all of the dedicated employees at the Container Research Corporation a huge debt of gratitude. We are certainly a safer country because of their efforts. I am proud to represent these fine men and women and honor them on their 50th Anniversary on the House Floor today.

TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO—
MICHAEL J. NOVOSEL

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's greatest military heroes, Michael J. "Mike" Novosel, who passed away on April 2 at the age of 83 at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC.

Mike Novosel was a remarkable man who ranked among the best who ever donned a military uniform. I'm proud to point out that he spent much of his life in southeast Alabama where he had a monumental impact on the mission of the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1922, Novosel joined the U.S. Army Air Force when he was 19. His training eventually took him to Maxwell Air Force Base where he qualified to fly the B-29 Superfortress. In 1945, he flew four Pacific combat missions with the 58th Bombardment Wing during the final days of World War II. But he did not stop there. Novosel commanded a B-29 as part of a fly-over during the Japanese surrender ceremony. His military career then led him to command the 99th Bombardment Squadron in the Pacific where he served until 1947 when he returned to the United States as a B-29 test pilot and then joined the Air Force Reserve. Soon after, he was called back to active duty at the Air Command and Staff School during the Korean War. But this was all just the beginning for Novosel.

During the Vietnam War, then Lt. Col. Novosel volunteered for duty in the Air Force Reserve. However, he was turned down because of his age. So, he traded his blue suit for the uniform of a U.S. Army warrant officer, and instead of piloting B-29's, took the stick of a Bell UH-1 Huey. As a "dust-off" helicopter pilot, Novosel served two tours in Vietnam, totaling 2,543 missions airlifting 5,600 medical evacuees. Amazingly, one of the men he rescued was his own son, who, ironically, later rescued him. In one rescue mission, Novosel braved tremendous enemy fire to rescue no less than 29 men.

His bravery resulted in his receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor. He returned

stateside to instruct the Army's Golden Knights parachute team at Fort Bragg and later he taught the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker. In 1985, Novosel was the last World War II pilot still flying. Fort Rucker named its main street "Novosel Avenue" for him, and after retirement Novosel remained in Enterprise, Alabama where he was an active member of the community until his death.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Warrant Officer Four Mike Novosel will rightfully be buried in Arlington National Cemetery alongside America's other great heroes. We can all be proud of his exemplary record, and I extend my condolences to his family.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L.
KOHNSTAMM

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a great Oregonian innovator, businessman, and friend. Richard L. Kohnstamm passed away last Friday, just days after his 80th birthday.

Like many Oregonians, Dick arrived in Oregon as a young man eager to forge his own future, and build his own adventure. What Dick couldn't possibly have known then, was that his future would become a true Oregon Legacy.

In 1955, Dick took over the management of Oregon's Historic Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. With his imagination, vision, and dedication, Dick transformed the lodge from a neglected public works building to an Oregon landmark.

He started the nation's first summer skiing, started a racing school, brought in Olympic Medalists as instructors, and completely revamped the lodge, making it a destination for Oregonians and visitors. With Dick's leadership, Timberline Lodge was the first ski area in the nation to receive the National Historic Landmark designation.

Dick met his wife Molly, and raised their four sons on the Mountain. He was a father figure to hundreds of young employees away from home. He was a leader. He was a visionary. He was a pioneer in the best Oregon tradition. He was an Oregon Icon.

I consider myself lucky to have known Dick, and I want to honor him for his extraordinary life and his many contributions to Mt. Hood and the State of Oregon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR AS OFFERED BY WILLIAM T. WALKER,
THEODORE, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, recently one of my constituents, William T. Walker, submitted a letter to the Mobile Register providing an interesting perspective on the recent peace march that started in Mobile, Alabama, and traveled throughout the Gulf Coast.

Many people across the Gulf Coast are still working hard to rebuild their homes, businesses and lives following last year's hurricanes. While the freedom to protest is one of the foundations of American democracy, it is important to see the effect that it can have. Today, I rise to ask that this letter be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety:

MARCHERS HURT SPIRIT, GOOD WILL

"It does not take a majority to prevail . . . but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brush fires of freedom in the minds of men."—Samuel Adams

I like to think of myself as part of that minority to whom Adams was referring. I know that some grow tired of my constant rant about freedom, about supporting this country and our leaders. Yet, I continue. Why?

Things like the peace march that left Mobile recently is one reason. When I heard about that march, I was in Gulfport, Miss., helping a man put his ceiling back in his house after it was hit by a pine tree during Hurricane Katrina.

A 60-foot pine tree will break any roof on the Gulf Coast. Sixty misguided, self-serving marchers were trying to break the good will and spirit of a people who have been through tragedy.

As I held the piece of drywall up for my friend to nail in, he asked me this: "I wonder what those marchers have done to help people rebuild here on the Gulf Coast." That struck me. What have they done?

As they marched along the road, being photographed and reveling in their notoriety, thousands of people were out there, rebuilding the Gulf Coast. And those soft-headed fabricators of veracity marched on.

As those people marched along the road, having their pictures taken by news photographers, all us old dumb guys were in the background. Black and white, Democrat and Republican, religious and not, we were repairing things, cleaning up, and making this a better place to live.

And those foot soldiers of fabrication marched on, planting their perfidious propaganda with each step. I pray that their crop will fail.—WILLIAM T. WALKER, Theodore, Alabama

**HONORING MATT VALENTI NCAA
WRESTLING CHAMPION**

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a special honor to recognize Matt Valenti, a student athlete from the University of Pennsylvania, who recently won the NCAA wrestling championship. Penn's sports history records need updating now to include Matt as one of only three wrestlers to have achieved this distinction as national champion. All three wrestlers are bound together by their high level of motivation and their devotion to the time-honored virtues of hard work and sacrifice.

We are all aware of the competitive nature and demanding rigors of this sport. Matt's achievements have set a new benchmark for excellence in this sport. The following statistics speak for themselves and place Matt in an elite category:

He won five consecutive matches against the nation's best wrestlers in the 2006 NCAA

Championships to win the national title at 133 lbs.

He showed courage and determination in reversing and riding Chris Fleegeer of Purdue University to win the national final 3-2.

He accomplished his title by beating the tournament's second and third-seeded wrestlers and a former national runner-up.

He had two pins in five matches at the NCAA Championships.

He showed excellence and outstanding skill by being taken down only once and reversed once in his five matches.

He became only the third national champion in the 102-year history of Penn wrestling.

He led his team to score the most points in an NCAA Championship in team history.

He is a two-time All-American, in 2004 and 2006.

On the day Matt won the NCAA Championship, the pressure on him was immense. The way he wrestled his way to the championship is a testament to his grace under pressure, his good sportsmanship, and most importantly, his example as a role model for youth that make him special to not only to wrestling fans in Pennsylvania, but to everyone who pursues the American dream.

Finally, I would be remiss, if I did not recognize the extraordinary effort and commitment of Head Coach Zeke Jones who inspires and motivates the true grit and discipline so necessary on the mats. His personal commitment to excellence has served the University of Pennsylvania well. We share his pride in Matt Valenti's tremendous success as NCAA Champion and look to Matt to take us to the 2008 Olympics.

**CONSUMER CANCELLATION
FAIRNESS ACT**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, consumers are currently exposed to difficult cancellation policies for service subscriptions that are more costly and burdensome than continuing the service and paying the annual or monthly fee.

When consumers sign up for a service, they are often told that renewal occurs through automatic charges to their credit cards. When consumers decide to cancel, they run into difficulties, such as long distance phone calls with long hold times, all at the expense of the consumer.

To combat such abusive business practices, I have introduced the Consumer Cancellation Fairness Act.

My bill would require businesses to permit their customers to cancel subscription services in the same manner and by the same means they use to subscribe to such services.

If one click on a Web site or a toll-free call is all it takes to sign up for a service, then one click or a toll-free call should be enough to cancel.

I strongly urge this House to swiftly consider and pass the Consumer Cancellation Fairness Act to protect consumers from further abuse.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND
MRS. WILLIE THOMAS PONCY
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Willie Thomas Pouncy and Mrs. Lucile Pouncy on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which began on April 21, 1956, at Rock Elvy Baptist Church in Shady Grove, Alabama.

Mr. Pouncy is a respected member of his church and community. He has served faithfully as a deacon at Rock Elvy Baptist Church since 1954. In 1952, Mr. Pouncy was drafted in the U.S. Army, where he served during the Korean War. Upon completion of his tour of duty, he went on to own and run a small farm in Goshen, Alabama, and work on the railroad in Waycross, Georgia. He also worked for Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees for 19 years. Mr. Pouncy worked diligently to set an example to his seven sons as to what a husband and father should be, and he taught his seven daughters what traits are important in a husband. All the while, Mr. Pouncy had several admirers but none as important as his 14 children and his wife, Lucile.

Mrs. Pouncy was born Lucile Tucker in Shady Grove, Alabama. She is the embodiment of a God-fearing woman. She has always emphasized the importance of God, family, and education. Mrs. Pouncy served Rock Elvy Baptist Church as a secretary and is an usher, board member and deaconess. She managed a household of 14 children while her husband was away with work. She always made sure the homework was completed, chores finished, and Sunday school lessons comprehended. Mrs. Pouncy mastered the art of rearing with a stern will but a compassionate heart. She was not only a mother to her own children, but she served as a second mother to many of the children in the community.

I know Alabama and even our nation have benefited from the union of Mr. and Mrs. Pouncy. Among their 14 children, 32 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, there are two sons and two grandsons that have served in the recent war on terror. Additionally, they have raised: a social worker, several engineers, a bank president, a counselor, a minister, numerous business professionals, and most important to me . . . my director of constituent services.

Their 14 children: Willie Dean, Willie Thomas, Jr., Claudie Frank, Sharon (deceased), Linda, Michael, Lisha, Winfred, James, Kathy, Salena, Tyrone, Errical and Eric would like me to pass on their word of appreciation to their parents for the example they set, encouragement given, and yes, even for the discipline administered.

Mr. Speaker, in these times it is refreshing to know a family that is committed to the values and outstanding morals that Mr. and Mrs. Willie Thomas Pouncy have encouraged in their marriage and family. I have no doubt that this marriage symbolizes the strength of character and love of God that every American should emulate. Congratulations to Mr. and

Mrs. Pouncy on their 50th Wedding Anniversary—the world is a better place because of their contributions.

FAILURE OF “PLAN COLOMBIA”

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the following article detailing the complete failure of “Plan Colombia” into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. As the article points out, despite more than 4 billion dollars being sent to Colombia to fight the “war on drugs,” the coca crop grew by 21 percent last year. After six years of massive wealth transfers from U.S. taxpayers to the Colombian government, not only has no progress been made, but in fact things are getting worse. Unfortunately, with the way things are done in Washington, this failure of “Plan Colombia” will likely result in calls for even more money to be tossed in the black hole of the drug war. It would be far better to learn from our mistakes and abandon the failed “Plan Colombia.”

[From the Houston Chronicle, April 16, 2006]

COCA CROP JUMPS DESPITE U.S. AID

(By John Otis)

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA.—In a blow to the United States’ anti-drug campaign here, which cost more than \$4 billion, new White House estimates indicate that Colombia’s coca crop expanded by nearly 21 percent last year.

Figures released late Friday by the Office of National Drug Control Policy indicate Colombian farmers last year grew 355,680 acres of coca, the raw material for cocaine. That represents a jump of nearly 74,000 acres from 2004 even though U.S. funded cropdusters destroyed record amounts of coca plants in 2005.

Washington has provided the Bogota government with more than \$4 billion, mostly in anti-drug aid since 2000 for a program known as Plan Colombia—which was supposed to cut coca cultivation by half within six years.

Yet according to the new figures, more coca is now being grown here than when Plan Colombia started. “This is going to turn heads” on Capitol Hill, said Adam Isacson, a Colombia expert at the Center for International Policy in Washington and a long-time critic of U.S. counterdrug strategies in Latin America.

“You’re talking about \$4.7 billion spent on Plan Colombia, and this is all we have to show for it?”

The Bush administration downplayed the significance of the coca crop survey, an annual study of parts of Colombia carried out by the CIA using satellite imagery and on-the-ground inspections.

Rather than an increase in the crop’s size, the higher numbers may reflect a more thorough job of surveying the Colombian countryside, the White House said in a news release.

The statement said the area of Colombia sampled for the 2005 coca estimate was 81 percent larger than in 2004.

“Because of this uncertainty and the significantly expanded survey area, a direct year-to-year comparison (of the size of the coca crop) is not possible,” said the statement.

However, when year-to-year drug crop comparisons have reflected positive trends, U.S. officials have loudly touted the numbers as clear proof of success.

In 2002, for example, the CIA survey showed a drop in coca production and White House drug czar John Walters declared: “These figures capture the dramatic improvement. . . . Our anti-drug efforts in Colombia are now paying off.”

But some U.S. officials and drug policy analysts claim that Colombia has likely been producing far more coca over the past five years than the CIA surveys have indicated.

“The cultivation numbers, wherever they seem to be headed, need to be taken with a grain of salt,” said Joy Olson, director of the Washington Office on Latin America, a think tank. “In reality, coca cultivation and cocaine production exceed the official estimates, perhaps by wide margins.”

What’s more, she said, cheap, potent cocaine remains readily available on U.S. streets, indicating that the drug war in Colombia is having little real impact.

Some U.S. officials have forecast a gradual reduction in assistance for Colombia, starting in 2008. This year, Washington will send about \$750 million in aid to Colombia, the source of 90 percent of the cocaine sold on U.S. streets.

The centerpiece of the U.S. anti-drug strategy here is a controversial aerial-eradication program in which crop-dusters, escorted by helicopter gunships, bombard coca plants with chemical defoliants. But the program costs about \$200 million annually and many critics say the money would be better spent elsewhere. The idea of eradication is to persuade peasant farmers to give up growing coca and to plant legal crops. But funding by the U.S. and Colombian governments for crop-substitution programs pale in comparison to the eradication budget and most efforts to develop alternatives have failed.

Part of the problem is that coca is often grown in remote jungles and mountains that are controlled by Marxist guerrillas, contain few roads or markets, and have almost no government presence. Thus, even as crop-dusters have killed off record amounts of coca, farmers stay a step ahead of the spray planes by pushing deeper into the wilderness to grow more.

In 2000, Colombian farmers attempted to grow about 450,000 acres of coca, about one-third of which was wiped out by the spray planes, according to U.S. government figures. Last year, by contrast, they tried to grow a whopping 780,000 acres. “People with no economic alternatives have not been deterred by fumigation,” said Isacson of the Center for International Policy. “Fumigating an area is no substitute for governing it.”

Despite the rise in coca cultivation, Anne Patterson, a former U.S. ambassador to Colombia who heads the State Department bureau that runs the eradication program, told a congressional hearing in Washington last month that the Bush administration was considering “stepping up” the crop-dusting campaign.

Beyond the drug war, Patterson said, the overall U.S. aid program “has benefited Colombia in ways we had not anticipated.”

She cited better security conditions in the cities and the countryside, where the number of kidnappings and murders has dropped, as well as recent blows to the nation’s narcotics traffickers and guerrilla groups.

RAMSEY, INDIANA WILFRED EDWARD “COUSIN WILLIE” SIEG, SR. POST OFFICE

HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I introduce this bill to recognize the accomplishments of one man by naming the Ramsey, IN postal facility after a beloved member of our community, “Cousin Willie”. The privilege to introduce this bill with the support of the entire Indiana Delegation makes it all that more special.

If you asked someone in Ramsey who Wilfred Edward Sieg, Sr. was or what he was about, some may not be able to tell you. But if you asked them about “Cousin Willie”, that’s a different story. “Cousin Willie” and Wilfred Edward Sieg, Sr. are one in the same.

Wilfred Edward “Cousin Willie” Sieg, Sr., son of the late Edward and Agnes Gettelfinger Sieg, was born March 16, 1931 in his life-long home of Ramsey, IN. After finishing High School at Corydon High, “Cousin Willie” went on to graduate from Indiana University in 1953 with a degree in marketing. Upon graduation, Cousin Willie served our country as First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He continued to serve his country through 1968 as a member of both the Air Force and the Air Force Reserves.

After his active-duty service, Cousin Willie returned home to help run the family business, Ramsey Popcorn Company, alongside his parents and brothers. “Cousin Willie’s” parents started Ramsey Popcorn in 1944 going door to door selling raw popcorn kernels out of the back of their truck. The business soon grew and in the early 1960’s, “Cousin Willie”, along with his three brothers, took over day-to-day operations of the business from his parents and eventually served as President of Ramsey Popcorn Co., Inc. Under his guidance, Ramsey Popcorn Co. grew to become one of the top four producers of popcorn in the world. The company sells roughly 50 million pounds of popcorn a year and exports to over 20 countries throughout the world. Ramsey also sells to house-hold name snack food manufacturers and supermarkets including Kraft, Frito Lay, Campbell’s, The Kroger Co. and Target as just a sample.

Before graduating from IU, “Cousin Willie” married his High School sweetheart, Doris Marie Byrum. “Cousin Willie” and Doris were the proud parents of 13 children. Cousin Willie was a firm believer in hard work and was known to put his kids to work on the family farm doing tough and unwanted jobs. “That way, by the time they get to working at the popcorn plant, they like it just fine.”

Mr. Sieg was truly proud of his small community and felt compelled to become involved in any way he could. In addition to employing many members of his community, he was also a member of the Ramsey Lion’s Club, the Ramsey-Spencer Grange and local Farm Bureau. He was a Rotarian and actively involved in local and state politics as well as the area schools’ athletic programs. He also served as a Member of two Boards; the Ramsey Water Company and the North Harrison Community School Board.

Mr. Sieg passed away on February 2, 2006 at the age of 74 after losing a battle with lung

cancer. The town of Ramsey, Harrison County, and the state of Indiana lost a proud and prominent member of their community. I am privileged to have had such an outstanding Hoosier as a constituent and I cannot see any greater honor for a father, husband, community leader, employer, veteran and friend known for his dedication to family, faith, business and community, Wilfred Edward Sieg, Sr., Cousin Willie than by bestowing this honor upon him.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 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. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support H.R. 609, the College Access and Opportunity Act. While this bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act is by no means perfect, the bill represents an expanded opportunity and a chance to succeed for the hundreds of thousands of minority students who dream of obtaining a college degree. That is why I plan to vote for the bill today.

College degrees open many doors to the future. Students that obtain bachelor degrees have on average higher earning potentials, more competitive jobs, and higher standards of living. But many minority students are unable to obtain a college degree because they lack the necessary resources to do so, and as a result the doors to opportunity often remain closed. Data from 2000 shows that only 13 percent of Hispanics and 15 percent of Blacks in California earned a bachelor's degree, compared to 31 percent for Caucasians.

Despite its flaws, H.R. 609 contains key provisions that will help Hispanics and other minorities succeed academically from the day they enter Kindergarten to the day they receive their college diploma and beyond.

The bill supports minorities in elementary and secondary education by recruiting minorities to the teaching profession and focusing on the needs of Limited English Proficient students.

In addition, the bill creates new "Centers for Excellence" programs that will prepare teachers, including minority teachers, to become "Highly Qualified" in K-12 classrooms.

Beyond high school, the bill reauthorizes the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) that assists low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers to obtain a high school diploma or certificate, and it reauthorizes the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) that provides tutoring and counseling to migrant students in their first year of college.

The bill also supports Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) by establishing a new HSI grant for graduate degrees and by eliminating the two-year wait between grant applications.

In closing let me highlight some of my concerns, which I hope will be addressed as the bill moves through the process to passage. In particular, I am concerned that the bill does

not invest in critical student aid programs on a high enough level. The most telling example is that of Pell Grants, which help many disadvantaged children to go to college. This bill would set maximum Pell Grants at the abysmally low amount of \$6,000. I was especially disappointed that Democrats were not allowed to offer an amendment to authorize higher funding levels for Pell Grants and other student aid and support programs.

Nevertheless, this bill does provide a much needed single definition of higher education and reauthorizes successful programs such as GEAR UP, TRIO, grants for alcohol and drug abuse prevention, and the Perkins Loan. These efforts to strengthen existing programs and provide benefits for Hispanic and other minority students who dream of a college education led me to vote for H.R. 609 today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of April 6, 2006, I was unable to vote due to an important prescheduled speaking engagement, for which I was granted a leave of absence. I would like the RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call vote numbers 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98 and 99.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JEROME A. GREENE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Jerome A. Greene, a dear friend, who used his life to uplift and empower others. Although Reverend Greene passed away on August 23, 2004, his lifetime of service lives on in the hearts and minds of the residents of the Bronx. On Wednesday, April 19, 2006, his city and his home borough will show its gratitude to this remarkable man by renaming Teller Avenue between E. 168th and E. 169th "Reverend Jerome A. Greene Place".

Reverend Greene was born March 12, 1941 in Welch, West Virginia to Emmanuel Greene and Savannah Elsie Anderson. As a young man he led the fight for the integration of his high school in West Virginia and became the first black male to graduate with honors. Upon graduating from high school, he moved to Queens, NY and enrolled in City College. Graduating with a degree in education, Greene began his teaching career in Harlem in 1963.

In 1967, Reverend Greene left the public school system to serve as Director of Programming, Evaluation, Education and Training at the Morrisania Community Progress Center. Although he was no longer with the public school system, Reverend Greene remained committed to improving the educational experience of New York students. Realizing the importance of putting more teachers in the classroom, he helped to secure millions of dollars

to create more than 600 paraprofessional jobs in various school districts. His efforts not only earned him the nickname "Father of Paraprofessionals" but the respect and admiration of the young men and women he helped to employ, myself included. My experiences as a paraprofessional in the late 1960's provided me with a unique understanding of the public school system and helped to shape my career as a public servant. I will always be grateful to Reverend Greene for helping to open the door that enabled me to serve my community.

In 1975, Reverend Greene married his beloved Aurelia and for 29 years they worked side by side in an effort to improve the lives of the residents of the Bronx. It was not long after his marriage that he began teaching prayer ministry in his home, which ultimately became the Bronx Christian Charismatic Prayer Fellowship, Inc. In 1991, the church moved to its current location on Third Avenue in the Bronx, providing the good Reverend with more space to teach the benefits of living a virtuous life.

Reverend Greene also served as Treasurer and Chairperson of Bronx Community Board #4 and was elected Male District leader of the 77th Assembly District, where he served until his passing in 2004.

The recipient of many civic and professional awards, Reverend Greene was well loved and well respected. His works will continue to impact the lives of New Yorkers for generations to come. Surely, that is the mark of a great life.

May "Reverend Jerome A. Greene Place" forever stand as a reminder of his selfless efforts to improve the lives of his fellow man and may it compel us all to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, for his indomitable spirit that continues to inspire even though he has passed on, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Rev. Jerome A. Greene.

TRIBUTE TO GRAND RABBI OF SATMOR, RABBI MOSES TEITELBAUM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker. I rise to join the Satmar and Jewish communities across the world in mourning the passing of the Grand Rabbi of Satmar, Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum. Thousands amassed in Brooklyn and Monroe, New York on short notice to show their respect and admiration. It is indeed a tribute to Rabbi Teitelbaum's leadership that the Satmar community now numbering over 120,000, experienced remarkable growth during his tenure.

Rabbi Teitelbaum's life was one of perseverance, dedication and commitment to the Satmar and Jewish communities. A survivor of Auschwitz and the Holocaust, Rabbi Teitelbaum began a new life in the United States after he lost his immediate family to the Nazi genocide. As perhaps a tribute to his life, his first great, great granddaughter was born on the day the Rebbe passed away.

I was blessed with the opportunity to meet with the Grand Rabbi on numerous occasions in his home in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. A simple and humble man, his poignant advice and

encouragement were sought by many and the depth of his wisdom will sorely be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in marking the passing of this great leader. We can all be comforted with the enormous legacy that survives Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum's remarkable life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "MILITARY RANGE LEGACY ACT OF 2006"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Military Range Legacy Act of 2006." This bill strengthens military base clean-up programs through the use and development of new technologies, better programmatic organization, and a greater attention to the needs of the communities impacted by base closures.

I am proud that the United States has the best trained military in the world. Yet, as a result of this training, over 3,000 sites on former military ranges are contaminated with unexploded ordnance, UXO discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents. These sites, littered with still-dangerous explosives and harmful contaminants, pose health and safety risks to our communities while preventing the redevelopment of closed bases and limiting opportunities for job creation and economic growth. By passing the Military Range Legacy Act or including provisions of it in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act and providing the necessary funding, we can achieve real progress towards making our former defense communities safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY OLIVER,
NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Kimberly Oliver for being named the 2006 National Teacher of the Year. Ms. Oliver, a kindergarten teacher at Broad Acres Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland, exemplifies the best of the teaching profession—an innovative instructor who inspires her students to reach their full potential. Today, Ms. Oliver makes history as the first Montgomery County Public School or Maryland teacher to win this prestigious honor.

Ms. Oliver has worked tirelessly, not only as a teacher but also as a leader outside of the classroom. Just a few short years ago, Broad Acres was on the brink of a takeover by the Maryland State Department of Education due to low performance by its students. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Oliver and other faculty members, staff, and students, Broad Acres is now a model of school reform.

Oliver was named Montgomery County Teacher of the Year in April 2005 and was selected Maryland Teacher of the Year last October. She was named one of four finalists for

the national honor in January. As the 56th National Teacher of the Year, she will spend the next year representing our Nation's teachers at events around the country.

The National Teacher of the Year Program is one of the oldest and most prestigious national honors programs that recognizes excellence in teaching. I am proud that one of Montgomery County's many outstanding teachers was awarded this honor.

Education is the foundation of opportunity and America's children need teachers like Ms. Oliver to help provide them with the knowledge and training they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. I applaud Kimberly Oliver's achievement and wish her success in her future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Each year on April 24th, the Armenian community and others throughout the world remember and solemnly commemorate the 300 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders that were arrested in Constantinople, taken to Turkey and murdered. Today marks the 91st anniversary of the deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915. From 1915–1923, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered and more than 500,000 were forced from their homeland into exile.

Despite the effort of some to minimize the scope and deny its occurrence, the Armenian Genocide is a historical fact. In the years since, descendants of Armenian immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this nation and throughout the world. In my district, there is a significant population of Armenian survivors and their families that showed heroic bravery and a will to survive. With faith and courage, generations of Armenians have overcome great suffering and proudly preserved their culture, traditions, and religion by sharing their story of the genocide. It is through their unforgettable tragedy that we are able to share in their history and strong heritage.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to imagine an evil more powerful than the massacre and willful destruction of a people. By commemorating the Armenian Genocide, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities, and therefore we ensure the lessons of the Armenian Genocide are properly understood and acknowledged. As U.S. efforts to aid victims of genocide continue, it is imperative that we pay tribute to the memory of others who have suffered and to never forget the past.

RECOGNIZING THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

From 1915 to 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered mass killings and more than half a million others were forced from their homeland into exile by the Ottoman Empire. Yet, from the ashes of destruction, the survivors rebuilt their lives. In the years since, descendants of Armenian immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this nation and throughout the world. Communities in California and across the United States are fortunate to be home to an organized and active Armenian community, whose members contribute and participate in every aspect of civic life.

Despite the many thriving communities, the scars of genocide remain deeply embedded in history and in our conscience. Today we mourn the victims, pay tribute to the survivors, stand together with all who are committed to promoting awareness about the atrocities of genocide, and renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities. Today we remember to never forget.

COMMEMORATING THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, to remember the victims, to recognize the survivors, and to keep the memory of this atrocity fresh and alive.

The Armenian genocide began April 24, 1915 with the Ottoman Empire's campaign to eradicate the Armenian presence within its borders. The alarmed American ambassador at the time protested Ottoman policy and wrote to Washington describing what was happening on the ground as a "campaign of race extermination." By the time the genocide ended eight years later it claimed one and a half million souls and forced another half a million Armenians to flee their homes and leave their country in order to survive, many coming to the United States where the community would go on to thrive.

This despicable mass murder, torture, and killing of innocents was indeed a genocide; that fact can neither be denied nor ignored. It is outrageous that 91 years later the governments of the United States and Turkey still refuse to acknowledge this slaughter for what it was. This is shameful in light of the magnitude of suffering the Armenian community has endured since their victimization and the subsequent historical denial of their persecution.

It is time to act by appropriately condemning this horrific event. I join my colleagues from

the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in calling upon this administration and the government of Turkey to formally recognize the Armenian genocide.

91ST ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the 91st annual observance of the Armenian Genocide.

Ninety-one years ago, there began a vast human tragedy with the execution of some 300 Armenian leaders, professionals and intellectuals. Over the next eight years, a brutal campaign of genocide against the Armenian people was carried out in the Ottoman Empire, leading to the deaths of over 1.5 million people and the deporting of another 500,000.

Decade after decade there has been a failure to acknowledge the Armenian genocide. Today, while there is increased pressure on Turkey to acknowledge the facts of history, and some new voices have been raised to urge this acknowledgement, there remain efforts to evade this dark chapter in human his-

tory, as evidenced by a book recently sent to Congressional offices.

So this is the time for all of us who have been joining in the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide to continue to speak out. It is vital and urgent for us to insist that there be a universal participation in remembering the victims. We must say, to those who hesitate, our humanity can settle for nothing less.