

officers. He served as a field training officer assisting officers who graduated from the police academy. He also served as a mentor at a local elementary school. Sergeant Hernandez is remembered for his leadership skills and ability to help others.

Sergeant Hernandez is survived by his fiancée and three children of Silver Spring. He is also survived by his parents in Puerto Rico. He will forever be remembered as a dependable, trustworthy and captivating person with a passion for life, children, family, and country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring the life and memory of a Maryland hero. Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez was loyal to the citizens of the United States and deserves our recognition and appreciation.

BLUMENAUER AMENDMENT TO THE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL FY 2007

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will be offering an amendment, cosponsored by Congressman JEFF FLAKE, to the Agriculture Appropriations bill. The amendment will prevent any funds in the appropriations bill to go towards salaries or expenses of personnel who make loans in excess of 17 cents per pound for raw sugar cane or 21.6 per pound for refined beet sugar. This is, in effect, a 6 percent cut to the Sugar Loan Program.

TRIBUTE TO MSGR. CIPPEL OF ST. FRANCES CABRINI PARISH

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devout servant of the Catholic faith, Msgr. John A. Cippel of the St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Spring Hill, FL. Monsignor Cippel is retiring after more than 46 years as an ordained priest in the Catholic Church, the last 6 serving as monsignor at St. Frances Cabrini.

Msgr. John A. Cippel is the second pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish. Appointed in January 1996 by Bishop Robert Lynch to succeed the founding pastor, Father David Banks, Monsignor Cippel has served the parish with distinction for more than 10 years.

Ordained a priest on January 28, 1960, Father Cippel is an alumnus of St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA, and St. Louis seminary, Carthage, Tunisia. His first years of priesthood were spent as a missionary in Tanzania, East Africa.

Returning to the United States in 1973 to continue his studies at Andover Newton Theological School in Boston, Monsignor Cippel received the Degree of doctor of ministry from that institution in 1975.

Following his graduation, Monsignor Cippel moved to Florida to begin his ministry as a priest in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. His first assignments were associate pastor at St.

Martha's Parish, Sarasota, St. Charles' Parish, Port Charlotte, and St. Mary's Parish, St. Petersburg. In addition to serving as pastor of St. Cecelia Parish, Clearwater from 1981 to 1990, Monsignor Cippel was also chosen as the spiritual director of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Boynton Beach, FL. He came to St. Frances Cabrini after completing a 5-year span at this seminary.

Mr. Speaker, over the years I have had the opportunity to see Monsignor Cippel interact on a personal and spiritual basis with his parishoners at St. Frances Cabrini. Most Thanksgivings I have been at the church working with the congregation and Monsignor Cippel to help prepare the Thanksgiving feast for those parishoners and all residents without family on the holiday.

Working alongside Monsignor Cippel I saw the compassion in his eyes and the dedication in his heart to serving those in need. For many years he has been a voice of reason in the Hernando County area and someone to whom the entire Catholic community looked up to for wisdom and clarity of thought.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Monsignor Cippel's retirement, I would like to commend him for his decades of work on behalf of the thousands of men and women whose lives he has touched and influenced. Monsignor Cippel has given so much to the men and women of Catholic faith and it is time that we say thank you to him as he leaves the St. Frances Parish.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORWAY'S CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of the Kingdom of Norway and extend my congratulations to King Harald V, and to Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, as Norway celebrates its national day of recognition of the adoption of its constitution on May 17, 2006.

It was on May 17, 1814, that Norway adopted its constitution, making the country free and independent. The United States and Norway have long had a strong relationship, founded on cooperation on important bilateral and regional issues, as well as on shared values. Our countries are engaged on every level, including on economic, security and cultural matters, in a relationship that reflects a shared commitment to further strengthening our relationship. The strength of our friendship allows our two nations to openly engage on issues for which we might not share a common perspective, and work together to build common ground on issues of great importance to our citizens.

Norway holds a strategic position within the European community, and through its membership in NATO and the European Union, Norway is a voice of reason in security matters that impact both its region and the world. In addition, Norway is a global leader in providing humanitarian aid to crises around the world, in aiding refugees, and in promoting human rights around the globe. I commend the Norwegian government for the important and life-saving work it is engaged in around the world.

As a Minnesotan, I and many of my constituents feel a particular bond to Norway, as so many ancestors of Minnesotans come from that great country. The strong links that have formed between Minnesota and Norway extend to business partnerships and social connections. Minnesotans also share with Norwegians the strong desire in helping to alleviate the suffering that is a daily struggle for so many around the world. Both Minnesotans and Norwegians feel compelled to act in the name of peace and democracy around the world, and I am proud there is such a strong Norwegian influence in Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, we should extend warm regards and congratulations to the people of Norway, the Norwegian Government, King Harald V and Queen Sonja, and Prime Minister Stoltenberg as they celebrate the adoption of their constitution. They have consistently been warm friends of the United States, and I look forward to working with the Norwegian people on every level in the future, to ensure that our two countries maintain a strong relationship.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EMPLOYEE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2006

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw our colleagues' attention to legislation I have introduced (H.R. 5328) to make it easier for talented, experienced employees of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) facing loss of their jobs later this year to find positions elsewhere in the Federal government.

The need for this legislation is both apparent and pressing. In September 2005, the CRS, a unit of the Library of Congress, announced to 59 support employees that their positions will be eliminated not later than September 30, 2006, by a reduction-in-force (RIF) if necessary. The CRS Director, Daniel Mulholland, argues that the 59 positions have become unnecessary due to technological advances that have changed the way CRS fulfills its mission, which is to serve Congress.

Several of our colleagues and I share serious concerns about this decision and question the CRS management practices which led to it. Since the announcement, I have personally met with affected employees and others, many of whom suggested, among other things, that CRS has placed insufficient emphasis on training and professional development offering opportunities for advancement. Moreover, given the Library's history in matters involving racial discrimination, many people inside and outside the organization are troubled by the fact that a large majority of the affected employees are women, African-Americans and other minorities.

Without debating the merits or demerits of Director Mulholland's decision, clearly Congress should do everything reasonably possible to help these dedicated CRS employees to continue their careers elsewhere in the Federal government. It is certainly the compassionate and equitable thing to do; most if not all of the employees have never received an unsatisfactory performance review, and many are sole