

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize, Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Chairman, I regret that I could not be present today because of a family medical emergency and I am in opposition to the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (H.R. 4200).

This bill misses the point. In the face of the President's drastic budget cuts to State and local wildfire assistance programs, including a 30 percent cut in the State Fire Assistance program, which directly funds local community fire risk reduction planning and projects, this bill seems wholly inappropriate. Instead of providing the necessary tools to mitigate future fires to the 11,000 high risk communities around the country threatened by wildfires, this bill "expedites" or "streamlines" the timber salvage process for the logging industry following a catastrophic event. It is unnecessary and unwise to weaken existing laws meant to protect public participation and the environment, when the authority and ability to recover and restore forests after fires, floods, or other disasters is not being prevented. Our communities deserve better. I urge my colleagues to oppose the underlying bill.

### FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Chairman, I cannot support this bill in its current form.

H.R. 4200 focuses on actions to be taken after a "catastrophic event," defined as any one of various natural disasters or events.

For Colorado, this misses the point—our most pressing issue is the increased likelihood of severe wildfires that endanger human life and property (and municipal water supplies) resulting from a combination of increased fuel stocks (itself the result of various causes, including past fire-suppression policies), drought, and widespread insect infestations.

So, what we need is accelerated action to reduce hazardous fuels in the "red zones" before the communities that adjoin or intermingle with the forests are confronted with severe wildfires—not legislation that aims at speeding salvage or restoration after the damage has been done.

The bill also has serious flaws. I will not attempt to list them all, because they have been discussed at length in today's debate. But I think it is worth emphasizing that while it is doubtful that the legislation is necessary anywhere it seems clear that there are certain lands to which it should not apply, including (1) National Conservation Areas and National Recreation Areas; (2) lands that have been recommended for wilderness by the President; (3) wilderness study areas; (4) BLM-designated areas of critical environmental concern; (5) lands recommended for wilderness in a Forest Service or BLM land-management plan; (6) the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area in Colorado; (7) the Bowen Gulch Protection Area in Colorado; (8) the Piedra, Roubideau, and Tabeguache Areas in Colorado; (9) the James Peak Protection Area in Colorado; and (10) the Arapaho National Recreation Area in Colorado. Further, I think the bill should include language to make clear that it will not change the requirement of section 103(d) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, which requires that at least 50% of the fuel-reduction funds must be used for projects in the wildland-urban interface—the "red zone" lands.

In the Resources Committee, I offered an amendment to make those changes, and also supported amendments offered by other Members. Unfortunately, those amendments were not adopted.

Similarly, I voted for the Rahall, DeFazio, Insee, and Udall of New Mexico amendments when the House considered the bill earlier today.

Regrettably, however, the House did not agree to revise the bill as proposed in those amendments. And because I think the bill should not be enacted without those changes, I must vote against it.

### FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Chairman, protecting our environment is one of the most important jobs I have as a Congressman. Unfortunately, the legislation before us today would hurt, rather than protect, our forests by speeding up destructive logging projects in national forests impacted by natural disturbances.

H.R. 4200 would limit critical environmental reviews and excludes the public from the decision making process. Basic protections for streams, critical wildlife habitat, old growth forests, roadless areas, fragile soils, and other essential natural resources would be removed under this legislation.

Science suggests logging harms damaged forests and impedes their recovery, and can actually increase the likelihood and severity of future forest fires. A study by researchers at Oregon State University has shown allowing forests to recover naturally after a fire increases forest regeneration and decreases the risk of future fires.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation. Congress can and must do a better job protecting our environment. We simply will not have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways.

### FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of the dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-

• 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.

Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Madam Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act.

Rather than aid in a speedy recovery after a natural disaster, this bill is itself a disaster for the environment.

Forestry experts have repeatedly expressed concern about the harmful effects of salvage logging, yet Republicans choose to ignore sound science and insist on implementing environmentally irresponsible logging policies. Contrary to what Republicans and their campaign contributors in the logging industry would like you to believe, research shows that post-fire logging actually impedes forest regeneration, causes erosion and degrades water quality.

As if facilitating the destruction of forests wasn't enough, this bill also weakens existing laws meant to protect our entire environment. In the case of a catastrophic event, H.R. 4200 allows for the removal of timber salvage while ignoring the National Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Water Act, and key provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

The exemptions contained in this bill are entirely unnecessary. The Forest Service is currently completing the removal of timber salvage, on national forests impacted by Hurricane Katrina with existing environmental guidelines and authorities for such practices. H.R. 4200 isn't needed and it is merely another attempt by Republicans to dismantle landmark environmental laws.

Finally, H.R. 4200 provides no protection for roadless areas, nation recreation areas, national conservation areas or wilderness study areas, thus putting many of our valuable public lands at risk.

I believe we have more reason to be concerned about the damage this bill will cause than the potential damage caused by actual natural disasters. H.R. 4200 is nothing short of disastrous for our national forests and public lands and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

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RECOGNIZING LEROY AND  
BARBARA SHATTO

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leroy and Barbara Shatto of Osborn, Missouri. They are the owners of Shatto Farms Milk Company, a family owned and operated business in Northern Missouri. Recently, Leroy was selected as the 2006 Missouri Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration.

Through hard work and the assistance of a Small Business Administration loan, the Shatto family has developed a very successful business. The Shatto Farms Milk Company produces "pure" milk with no added hormones, in a variety of flavors. The milk has grown quickly in popularity and is available in local grocery stores in Missouri and Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Leroy and Barbara Shatto. Their

entrepreneurial spirit and innovation in milk production are remarkable. I commend them for the achievement and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

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IN HONOR OF BOB GRIES RECIPIENT OF THE CLEVELAND SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER'S INAUGURAL DANIEL D. DAUBY AWARD

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Bob Gries, upon being named the recipient of the 2006 Daniel D. Dauby Award, presented annually by the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center of Cleveland, Ohio.

Since the 1930s, Mr. Gries and his family have been unwavering champions of support and advocacy for individuals and families who are impacted by hearing, speech and deafness issues. His leadership and volunteerism is evidenced throughout our Cleveland community, especially in the outstanding programs, services and awareness campaigns that originate from the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center.

The Gries and Dauby families are connected not only by bloodline, but also by their collective sense of commitment to community involvement. Daniel Dauby, for whom the award is named, was born deaf. His father was Nathan L. Dauby, general manager for the former downtown May Company Department Store, a position he held for nearly 50 years. Mr. Gries is the nephew of Daniel Dauby, and his work serves to keep Daniel's legacy alive and relevant to the thousands of individuals whose challenging world is filled with hope, joy and the potential to soar far above the walls of silence.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Mr. Bob Gries, up in being named the Daniel D. Dauby Award recipient. Mr. Gries' unwavering commitment and volunteerism, focused on advancing the services and programs offered at the Cleveland Speech and Hearing Center, continues to have a profound and positive impact on the lives of children, adults and their families who face daily challenges in a hearing world, giving them the practical resources to dream, achieve and succeed. I wish Mr. Gries and his entire family an abundance of health, peace and happiness, today and always.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Women's City Club of New York, a non-partisan, non-profit civic association that shapes public policy through teaching, advocacy and citizen engagement. This august in-

stitution is celebrating its 90th anniversary this month, and I salute its remarkable success in working to achieve fairness, equity and inclusion for all New Yorkers.

Since its founding in 1915 by suffragists and social reformers, the Women's City Club of New York has drawn upon the skills and qualifications of its pool of volunteers to identify, analyze and increase awareness of current and emerging trends in public policy, develop a carefully reasoned platform on key issues, and educate and empower the public at large through a variety of informational programs and publications. Its membership works in concert with advocacy and community based organizations to effect meaningful change for the better in our government! and our society.

From its origins in women's suffrage movement, Women's City Club members have honored women's hard-fought right to vote by helping the public become more informed and better educated about the political and governmental issues of the day. Throughout the long and proud history of the Women's City Club, its members have fulfilled a critical mission by helping New Yorkers understand and scrutinize all aspects of their municipal government and to become active in policy debates and the political process. The Women's City Club also achieved remarkable success in educating and enlightening elected officials, thus playing an instrumental role in shaping responsible government and public policies.

Today, Women's City Club members continue to effect change at the city, State and Federal levels. Its members informed engagement has earned the Women's City Club the respect of the government officials, opinion-makers in the news media, and civic activists of all stripes. Members of the Women's City Club of New York have rightly been dubbed reasoned citizen-advocates who know the way to City Hall.

Today, the Women's City Club is ably led by its president, Blanche E. Lawton, and its operations effectively managed by Paulette Geanacopoulos, LMSW. Through its network of committees and task forces, the Women's City Club continues to educate and inform its members and the public at large and help keep New York's municipal government a role model for cities around the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the enormous contributions to the civic life of our Nation's greatest metropolis by the Women's City Club of New York.

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WOMEN IN THE IRAQ WAR: A DIFFERENT KIND OF MOTHER'S DAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD an article published in the Washington Post of April 18, 2006 "Limbs Lost to Enemy Fire, Women Forge a New Reality" and to offer my heartfelt gratitude and good wishes on Mother's Day to the women serving in the United States Armed Forces who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan and come home with life-changing physical or mental injuries. Some of these women might not be mothers themselves yet; some may

never enjoy the precious gift of motherhood because of their injuries, but they all have mothers. I send the mothers of injured female troops a wish for the speedy recovery of your child and for a healing of your heart.

For the mothers of women who have died in combat I offer my humble apology and heartfelt sorrow. Your grief as a mother is more than I can ever understand but I grieve with you and for this Nation. The loss of your child, a brave woman and a blessing you delivered to this country is a loss to us all.

I wished to enter the particular article I cite above about women amputees because it is not widely enough known that the Iraq war is the first to make amputees of women in combat. The story in the Washington Post is subtitled "Women After War: The amputees."

The Post features the story of Dawn Halfaker, a 26-year-old retired Army Captain, whose right arm and shoulder were ravaged by a rocket propelled grenade that exploded in her Humvee in 2004. According to the Post, she was one of the newest soldiers "To start down a path almost unknown in the United States: woman as combat amputee."

Retired Captain Halfaker underwent multiple surgeries, learned to eat on her own and write with her left hand. "She was part of a new generation of women who have lost pieces of themselves in war, experiencing the same physical trauma and psychological anguish as their male counterparts."

But there is a difference from male amputees for these women who have lost limbs in combat. They do not know how society will view them as society has never experienced female amputees. They do not know how they will view themselves. Body image is an important part of every female child, teenager and woman in this country, more so and differently than it is for men. Society knows women will starve themselves to be "thin" because a thin body is important. They undergo implants, botox injections, and plastic surgery to make sure they look like society's favorite model or celebrity. Girls in their teens are susceptible to life threatening bulimia and anorexia for fear of "getting fat."

On April 18, 2006, when the Washington Post published the story about women amputees, the numbers were "small." In 3 years of war there were only 11 female amputees. On that same date there were 350 male amputees.

Dawn Halfaker was on night patrol in Baqubah, Iraq on June 19, 2004, when her vehicle was hit. Another soldier's arm was sheared off in the same accident and went flying past her head. As the medics worked to stabilize her, she warned them not to cut off her arm. She had been a strong athlete, a basketball standout at West Point, a starting guard through 4 years of college. When she was at Walter Reed, she did not want to know what she looked like. She asked her mother to cover the mirror in her room with a towel.

One of the more shocking aspects reported by this article in the Washington Post is the following information from historian Judy Bellafaire of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, which researches such issues. Ms. Bellafaire is quoted as saying: "We're unaware of any female amputees from previous wars." More shocking still is the report from the Post that follows:

"Surprising many political observers, the fact of female casualties has produced little public reaction. Before Iraq, many assumed that the sight of women in body bags or with missing limbs would provoke a wave of public revulsion." Yet the Post quotes Charles Moskos of Northwestern University, a leading military sociologist: According to Moskos, "The country has not been concerned about female casualties." Moskos goes on to say, politically the issues of female casualties "are a no-win political issue. Conservatives fear it will undermine support for the war if they speak out about wounded women, and liberals worry they will jeopardize support for women serving in combat roles by raising the subject."

In a section of the article entitled Motherhood Redefined, the Post article tells the story of Juanita Wilson, a mother of a 6-year-old girl. Ms. Wilson returned from Iraq with her left arm in bandages and her hand gone. At first she did not want to see her daughter but would only talk to her by telephone. It was 4 weeks before Ms. Wilson would allow her husband and daughter to visit her. For this visit, she insisted the nurse help her with makeup and stow her IV in a backpack for an outing to Chuck E. Cheese. When she finally was home, she was disturbed to learn she could not make her daughter a sandwich.

My Mother's Day wish for our female troops is that you come home soon, safe and to the life you dreamed of and if you are changed, you find the political will of your country has made your return as comfortable and satisfying as possible. You deserve no less.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 18, 2006]

LIMBS LOST TO ENEMY FIRE, WOMEN FORGE A NEW REALITY

(By Donna St. George)

Her body had been maimed by war. Dawn Halfaker lay unconscious at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, her parents at her bedside and her future suddenly unsure. A rocket-propelled grenade had exploded in her Humvee, ravaging her arm and shoulder.

In June 2004, she became the newest soldier to start down a path almost unknown in the United States: woman as combat amputee.

It was a distinction she did not dwell on during days of intense pain and repeated surgeries or even as she struggled to eat on her own, write left-handed and use an artificial limb. But scattered among her experiences were moments when she was aware that few women before her had rethought their lives, their bodies, their choices, in this particular way.

She was part of a new generation of women who have lost pieces of themselves in war, experiencing the same physical trauma and psychological anguish as their male counterparts. But for female combat amputees has come something else: a quiet sense of wonder about how the public views them and how they will reconcile themselves.

Their numbers are small, 11 in 3 years of war, compared with more than 350 men. They are not quite a band of sisters, but more a chain of women linked by history and experience and fate—one extending herself to another who then might offer something for the next.

They have discovered, at various points of their recovery, that gender has made a difference—"not better or worse," as Halfaker put it, "just different."

For Halfaker, an athlete with a strong sense of her physical self, the world was

transformed June 19, 2004, on a night patrol through Baqubah, Iraq. Out of nowhere had come the rocket-propelled grenade, exploding behind her head.

Another soldier's arm was sheared off. Blood was everywhere.

"Get us out of the kill zone!" she yelled to the Humvee driver. She was a 24-year-old first lieutenant, a platoon leader who two months earlier had led her unit in repulsing a six-hour attack on a police station in Diyala province. As medics worked to stabilize her, she warned: "You bastards better not cut my arm off."

In the hospital, there had been no other way to save her life.

At first, in the early days, she tried to ignore the burns on her face, her wounded right shoulder, the fact of her missing arm. She had been a basketball standout at West Point, a starting guard through four years of college. She was fit, young, energetic.

Suddenly, she was a disabled veteran of war.

"I didn't want to know what I looked like," she recalled recently. She asked her mother to get a towel and cover the mirror in her hospital room.

NEW TERRAIN, NEW PERILS

The Iraq war is the first in which so many women have had so much exposure to combat—working in a wide array of jobs, with long deployments, in a place where hostile fire has no bounds. In all, more than 370 women have been wounded in action and 34 have been killed by hostile fire.

The war has created what experts believe is the nation's first group of female combat amputees. "We're unaware of any female amputees from previous wars," said historian Judy Bellafaire of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, which researches such issues.

Surprising many political observers, the fact of female casualties has produced little public reaction. Before Iraq, many assumed that the sight of women in body bags or with missing limbs would provoke a wave of public revulsion.

"On the whole, the country has not been concerned about female casualties," said Charles Moskos of Northwestern University, a leading military sociologist. Politically, Moskos said, it is a no-win issue. Conservatives fear they will undermine support for the war if they speak out about wounded women, and liberals worry they will jeopardize support for women serving in combat roles by raising the subject, he said.

In the hospital, female combat amputees face all the challenges men do—with a few possible differences. Women, for example, seem to care more about appearance and be more expressive about their experiences, hospital staff members said. Among the women, there also was "a unique understanding or bond," said Capt. Katie Yancosek, an occupational therapist at Walter Reed.

The advent of female combat amputees has left an enduring impression on many hospital staff members. "We have learned not to underestimate or be overly skeptical about how these women will do," said Amanda Magee, a physician's assistant in the amputee care program. "Sometimes they arrive in really bad shape, and people are really worried. . . . But we've learned they can move

on from a devastating injury as well as any man."

#### MOTHERHOOD REDEFINED

Two months after Dawn Halfaker was wounded, Juanita Wilson arrived on a stretcher at Walter Reed, her left arm in bandages, her hand gone. It was August 25, 2004, just days after a roadside bomb went off under Wilson's Humvee. She came to the hospital as the Iraq war's fourth female combat amputee—the first who was a mother.

From the beginning, Wilson decided she did not want her only child to see her so wounded. She talked to the 6-year-old by phone. "Mommy's okay," she assured the girl. "What are you doing at school now?"

It was only after four weeks that Wilson allowed her husband and child to travel from Hawaii, where the family had been stationed, for a visit. By then, Wilson was more mobile. She asked a nurse put makeup on her face, stowed her IV medications into a backpack she could wear and planned an outing to Chuck E. Cheese's.

"Mommy, I'm sorry you got hurt," her daughter, Kenyah, said when she arrived, hugging her. And then: "Mommy, I thought you died."

The sort of mother who mailed her daughter penmanship exercises and math problems from the war zone, Wilson wanted Kenyah to stay focused on school and the ordinary concerns of being 6. "I wanted it to be like I was going to be okay when she saw me," said Wilson, 32.

Changes revealed themselves one at a time. Wilson remembered that her daughter eyed a plate of croissants in the hotel-like room where the family stayed at Walter Reed that first time they were together again. The child asked her mother for a sandwich.

"I realized, 'Oh, I can't even make a sandwich,'" she said. "It was a hurting feeling, your kid asking you to make her a sandwich and you're saying, 'You'll have to make your own sandwich' to a 6-year-old."

In November 2004, she heard that a female pilot had just been shot down in her Black Hawk helicopter in Iraq. Within days, Tammy Duckworth arrived at the hospital missing both legs, her right arm in jeopardy. She lay in a coma, her husband and parents at her bedside. "You care about everybody, but somehow amputees connect to amputees," Wilson said, especially if they are women. "It was a big deal to me," she said.

Wilson headed to the pilot's room to sit with her family. She found herself returning to Duckworth's bedside again and again—arranging her get-well cards, decorating her room, kissing the top of her head. One day, when Duckworth, now 37, was conscious, Wilson rolled up her sleeve to reveal her own amputated arm.

In a soft voice, Wilson said, she reassured her that another soldier was with her now. Wilson told her she could not imagine exactly how she felt but that she cared deeply.

She could not hold the pilot's hand because Duckworth was too injured.

Instead, Wilson stroked her hair.

#### THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

By mid-2005, Juanita Wilson was back to the rhythms of daily life with her husband and daughter. The couple bought a house in the suburbs of Baltimore. She took a new job with the Army, is a staff sergeant and is up for a promotion.

At 6:30 one winter morning, Wilson was cooking Cream of Wheat on her stovetop—taking great care to pour with her prosthetic and stir with her other arm. In her life as a woman, a mother and a wife, there are limits she once didn't face and could not even imagine.

"Kenyah," Wilson called.

When the child came down the stairs in bright pink pajamas, she saw her mother's

trouble: Wilson was in uniform, almost ready for work, but she needed help with her hair.

Wilson sat on a chair as Kenyah brushed gently, and then brought her mother's hair up in a bun. She is "a happy helper," Wilson said.

The girl, now 7, tells all her friends about "handie," as she has nicknamed Wilson's artificial limb. "My daughter is definitely not bashful about telling anybody," Wilson said. "She tells other kids at school. Kids don't judge you. They think it's the coolest thing that I have a robotic arm."

But Wilson continues to shield her daughter from the discomfort and anguish of her injury. "I didn't want to take her childhood away. That's my focus—that she is happy and enjoying life and not thinking about me. She'll ask me questions, and I'll say, 'Oh that's not for children to worry about'."

On that winter morning, Wilson had already tied her combat boots, her right hand doing most of the work and her prosthetic holding the loop before it is tied. "I want it to be known that just because you're a female injured in combat, you don't have to give up your career and you don't have to look at yourself as disabled," she said.

She added: "I haven't met any female soldier yet who feels she shouldn't have been there."

How the world sees war-wounded women like her, she said, is a little harder to pinpoint.

"When you're in Walter Reed, you're in a bubble. I could walk around with my arm off. It's acceptable. Everyone there knows. . . . But when you walk out that gate, it's a whole different world. No one knows what I've been through, no one probably cares, and to avoid all of that, I never come outside without my [prosthetic] arm. Never."

Wilson added, "I have noticed that when you're a female walking around as an amputee, everybody's mouth drops."

Lately, she has set new career goals, aiming high, perhaps even for the Army's top enlisted job. She listened with glee to the news that Tammy Duckworth—at whose bedside she had prayed—had decided to run for Congress in Illinois.

Soon after she learned about her friend's new political life, she called Duckworth, joked that she would serve as her assistant in Congress, and then reflected: "It definitely says the sky is the limit."

#### SCARS FARTHER FROM THE SURFACE

Long out of Walter Reed, Dawn Halfaker is also deeply into a life remade. It has been 17 months since she was wounded, and her favorite yoga tape is playing on a small VCR in an apartment in Adams Morgan. Halfaker barely seems to notice her image, which once was difficult to bear and is now reflected back at her from a large mirror: red hair and trim, athletic build, one arm extended perfectly above her head.

In place of her missing limb is a T-shirt sleeve, empty, hanging. Following along with the yoga tape, Halfaker visualizes that she still has a right arm; it helps her balance.

She retired from the Army as a captain—a tough choice only four years out of West Point, but one she made as she tried to imagine fitting back into military culture. Without her arm, she could no longer do push-ups, tie her combat boots, tuck her hair neatly under a beret.

She still has friends in Iraq, although one was killed in December. But the Bronze Star that she was awarded last year for her role at the Diyala police station is tucked away in a box. That day, she was in charge of 32 soldiers during the sustained firefight, taking a position on the roof with a grenade launcher, then quelling a jail riot.

Lately, she works at an office in Arlington, mostly as a consultant to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. She has applied to graduate school in security studies, bought a condo in Adams Morgan and co-wrote a book proposal about postwar recovery.

To get to this new place, Halfaker has made all sorts of adjustments. She types on a computer one-handed. Drive a car with a push-button ignition. Uses her knees to hold steady a peanut butter jar she wants to open. To write a note or a letter, she learned to use her left hand, practicing nightly at Walter Reed as she penned her thoughts in a journal.

"You don't think about how many times you have a lot of things in your hands, like for me just carrying my coffee from cafe downstairs up to my office on the seventh floor is a total battle every day," she said. She has to hold the coffee cup, scan her identification badge, open doors, press elevator buttons. Sometimes she spills. Sometimes the coffee burns her.

In her apartment, Halfaker bends and stretches into yoga poses, her artificial arm lying beside the mirror. More functional prosthetics did little good for her type of injury, she found. So she persuaded prosthetic artists at Walter Reed to make this one—lightweight and natural-looking, easier on her body, allowing her to blend in with the outside world.

Halfaker goes without a prosthetic when she is exercising, jogging through the streets of Washington or snowboarding in Colorado or lobbing tennis balls around a court.

"I never really wanted to hide the fact that I was an amputee," she said, "but I never wanted it to be the central focus of my life." For some men, she said, it seems a badge of honor that they do not mind showing. "For a woman, at least for me, it's not at all. . . . The fact that I only have one arm, I'm okay with that, but I want to be able to walk around and look like everyone else and not attract attention to myself."

Last year, a guy she met on the Metro asked her out, saying that he thought she was pretty. She agreed to meet him for lunch but felt nervous about mentioning her missing limb. It turned out that he was no less interested, she said. In the fall, she started dating an Army anesthesiologist, to whom she has become close. He is deployed in Iraq.

As a woman in her twenties, "I want to look as good as I can look," she acknowledged. "I think that's very much a female perspective, based on the roles that society has put men and women in."

Even more, she said, "I don't want to be known for being one-armed. I want to be known for whatever it is I do in my life."

#### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL DEWAYNE L. KNOTT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Dewayne L. Knott of St. Joseph, Missouri. He has served most recently as the Vice Commander of the 139th Medical Group of the Air National Guard based in St. Joseph. After 37 years of distinguished service, Lieutenant Colonel Knott is retiring from the Missouri Air National Guard.

The Lieutenant Colonel began his years of service in March of 1969 as an enlisted member of the United States Air Force. He served

dutifully in Kuwait during Desert Storm operations in 1991 and in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003 to 2004. He was recently decorated with Valor for his duty in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Dewayne L. Knott. His many years of distinguished service and commitment to serving his country have been an inspiration. I commend him for his service and I am honored to represent him in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO TINA FALLON

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to State Representative Tina Fallon, who after 28 years of service, has chosen not to seek another term in the State House of Representatives. This extraordinary woman is certainly a valuable asset to the State of Delaware as well as being a friend to all. She has been described as not only a benevolent and accomplished citizen, but also an admirable leader. A fixture of her beloved Seaford-area district, she truly is a distinguished Delawarean.

In addition to raising four sons with her late husband, James Fallon, she spent three decades as a Seaford School District biology teacher. While there, she shared her love of education with young people. Upon her retirement from teaching in 1978, she turned her attention to politics, offering Delaware another three decades of amicable and selfless service. Additionally, she served as a member of the influential Joint Finance Committee.

After 14 consecutive terms in office, Representative Fallon is well recognized and respected by her constituents. She has received numerous honors during both her political and professional tenure. In 1998, then Gov. Thomas R. Carper declared her as the "Travel and Tourism Person of the Year," honoring her dedication to promoting and developing the state's tourism industry. In that same year, the National Republican Association recognized her as a Legislator of the Year. Clearly, the service offered by Representative Fallon has been a vital attribute to innumerable causes.

I congratulate State Representative Tina Fallon for her years of remarkable service and countless contributions to the State of Delaware. I am sure that in retirement, she will remain a dynamic and influential member of the community. I would like to thank her for the many sacrifices that she has made for the State of Delaware.

RIGHT-TO-RIDE LIVESTOCK ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT OF 2005

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a strong cosponsor of H.R. 586, the Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005.

Pack and saddle stock animals were a critical element in many early Americans' liveli-

hood. This bill will preserve their traditional, cultural and historic use of these lands and facilitate the continued access of pack and saddle stock animals on parts of National Park System, Bureau of Land Management lands, National Wildlife Refuge lands and the U.S. Forest System. This legislation will also ensure that any proposed reduction of these uses will undergo the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Defining managed recreation of this historical practice within our national forests is critical in recognizing the cultural contributions and precedent of pack and saddle stock in our public lands above simple recreational use.

In my congressional district in Tennessee, I have spoken with many of my constituents whose families have spent generations riding horseback through our National Forest trails. Especially in this age of the internet, television and video games, it is vital that we enhance opportunities for people of all ages to come and engage in outdoor activities in America's backyard.

I believe that horse and saddle stock hold a unique place in our heritage. We must pass this bill to ensure its historical preservation and continued enjoyment as a national pastime.

I want to thank the sponsor of this legislation for his support of this important issue and hope that all members can support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PEGGY REIPSA ON HER RETIREMENT FROM ORLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT 135

**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Peggy Reipsa on the occasion of her retirement from Orland School District 135. On June 30, 2006, Mrs. Reipsa will be stepping down after 34 years of distinguished service to the young people of Orland Park, Illinois.

From 1977 to 1998, Mrs. Reipsa served School District 135 in multiple capacities, including that of Special Needs Resource Teacher, Reading Teacher, and Instructional Services Assistant. In July of 1998, she accepted a position as Principal of Orland Center School, where she has served the students, faculty, and the community with great distinction.

On behalf of the families of School District 135, I would like to thank Mrs. Reipsa for her tremendous contribution to the education of so many young children over the years. Her guidance and leadership have helped countless children develop the confidence, knowledge, and skills to lead fruitful and fulfilling lives.

So one again, I congratulate Mrs. Peggy Reipsa and wish her a happy and relaxing retirement.

RECOGNIZING LARRY L. HARPER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to posthumously recognize Larry L Harper of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Harper was an outstanding Missourian with a passion for flying and his love of flying has remained an inspiration long after his passing. That passion will be memorialized by a statue, The Aviator, commissioned by his wife Carolyn and placed at Rosecrans Memorial Airport in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Larry's love of flying began at a young age, he would hang around the Rosecrans Airport offering to wash and fuel planes in exchange for flying lessons. While working as a mechanic, Larry eventually earned his pilots license. He logged over 30,000 hours in flight over 40 years of flying for four different companies in aircraft ranging from Aircoupses to Lear Jets. His last flight came just one week before his passing, as he jumped at the opportunity to fly a Lear 55, every flight was a special flight for him.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Larry L Harper. He was a pilot whose passion for the skies inspired the many people whom he met. He has been missed, but his love of flying will never be forgotten and the commitment of his beloved wife Carolyn ensures that all who come to Rosecrans Airport will know his passion. I commend him for his spirit and commitment to aviation and I was honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor, recognition and remembrance of the men and women of our local law enforcement agencies who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and every police officer who braves daily peril in order to protect and safeguard the citizens of our Cleveland community.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society was formed by a dedicated group of police officers and their families, committed to keeping the immense sacrifice and memories of their loved ones forever alive for themselves and for the entire community to honor. Their focus resulted in a striking, black polished granite monument, consisting of gently sloping walls that cover 1,000 square feet and tower six feet above the ground. The monument bears the name, law enforcement agency, and date of death of each of the 158 officers who have died in the line of duty. Every May, the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial brings together hundreds of police officers and their families from throughout greater Cleveland in unity with the general public to recognize and honor the fallen, to celebrate their lives and great contribution,

and to honor those who continue on the noble work of service, safety and assistance.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the men and women in blue who have paid the ultimate price in protecting the safety of others. We also join in honor and recognition of the family members whose lives were forever altered upon losing a loved one in the line of duty. We extend our deepest gratitude to all police officers, for their commitment, courage and unwavering sense of duty in their vocation of service to others. The individual and collective work of our police officers is framed by integrity, dedication and excellence, serving as a shield of security and hope for every one of us—and their courage and sacrifice will be forever honored and remembered.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PAN-PONTIAN FEDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA ON THE ANNUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE PONTIAN GREEK VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the annual day of remembrance of the genocide of the Pontian Greek people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire that took place from 1915 to 1923, and to salute the Pan-Pontian Federation of the United States of America and Canada for its role in preserving and passing on the vibrant history and traditions of the Pontian Greeks.

With a long and distinguished history and a proud culture, the Greek Pontians have for millennia upheld Hellenic traditions against all odds. Named after Pontus, the Greek term denoting "the sea," the Pontians trace their origins to the region of the southeastern part of the Black Sea. There, one of the first Greek cities of Pontus, Sinope, was founded in 785 B.C.

The seeds for the Pontian genocide were planted during negotiations among the European powers that led to the signing of the Treaty of Berlin in 1878. The ensuing rise of nationalism led to many revolutionary wars and independence movements within the decaying Ottoman Empire, causing Turkish leaders to become increasingly fearful that their ethnically diverse domain would begin to disintegrate.

By the turn of the 20th century, many nations within the Balkans had acquired their independence from the Turks. However, due to the politics of the era, many of these newly formed nations only consisted of a small portion of their population, as the great powers had no desire to see these new Balkan states become too strong. As a result, many Serbians, Greeks and Bulgarians still lived within the borders of the Ottoman Empire. The nations of the Balkans yearned to incorporate and unite their people who still lived under Turkish rule. This situation led to the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913, in which the members of the Balkan League joined to present a united front against their Turkish oppressors. The Ottoman armies were soundly defeated, and national borders were created and rearranged accordingly.

The reality was that many different nationalities existed within the Ottoman Empire and that their increasing desire to unite with their mother countries did indeed pose an ultimately fatal threat to the continued existence of the Ottoman Empire. In reaction, the Young Turk movement ushered in a new nationalistic and ethnocentric ideology in the Ottoman Empire. From 1916 to 1923, largely under the leadership of Kemal Ataturk, the Ottoman Empire began to practice a ferocious genocide of the Christian population within its borders.

In 1916, after the Turks had concluded their massacre of the Armenian people, the Pontians became their next victims. The Pontian Greeks were subject to massacres, atrocities, mass rapes and abductions of women and children. They were forced into starvation and sent on long marches whose true intended destination was the graveyard of history. This genocide almost resulted in the extinction of a people who had lived on Asia Minor for nearly three millennia. Between the years of 1915 and 1923, more than half of the Pontian population, or about 353,000 human beings, fell victim to what the world now knows to be genocide. These Pontians who did survive the Turkish onslaught were exiled from their ancestral homes, and many fled to Greece, Russia and the United States. It is estimated that there were about 400,000 Pontian refugees during this cataclysmic era.

Despite the death and displacement of almost 1 million Pontians, their traditions and culture still resonate across the world to this day. While forces of evil tried to obliterate an entire people, the determination and endurance of the Pontian Greeks stand as a testament to mankind's extraordinary ability to defy all odds in the hope of ultimately living in peace and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in observing the annual day of remembrance of the victims of the Pontian Greek genocide, and in recognizing the Pan-Pontian Federation of the United States of America and Canada, its vital mission of preserving Pontian Greek culture and history, and its significance as a symbol of mankind's hope and endurance.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
FLOYD PATTERSON

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the life and legacy of Floyd Patterson, a giant of our time. He emerged not only as a heavyweight boxing champion, but as a champion for morality and an exemplar of courage. Patterson's life achievements span throughout the world, though his most notable accomplishments are in the sport of boxing. Patterson defeated opponents in the ring and those challengers he had to overcome outside the ring, particularly the likes of poverty and social marginality.

Patterson was born January 4, 1935, in a dilapidated cabin in rural Waco, NC. He later as a small boy moved to a poor neighborhood in Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, New York. His early years were met by challenges in school and emotional unrest. At the age of 11

he was sent to Wiltwyck School for Boys, an institution for emotionally disturbed youths in upstate New York. In a later account of Patterson, he said the school and a particular teacher, Vivien Costen, saved his life. At Wiltwyck he first discovered his interest with boxing and it was encouraged by his teachers.

In 1947 he returned to Brooklyn. At age 14 he began working out with his brothers at Gramercy gym on New York's Lower East Side. The gym was owned by the legendary Constantine "Cus" D'Amato, who later would become Patterson's manager. At age 16, Patterson won the New York Golden Gloves middleweight title at Madison Square Garden. He was successful in winning 11 amateur championships in the Golden Gloves and the Amateur Athletic Union. In 1952 at the Olympics in Helsinki he won a gold medal and later that year, at age 17, he turned pro.

In 1965, the Washington Post described him as "a quietly confident young man with a school boyish air who likes ice cream, sweet potatoes and cream-colored cars." D'Amato was protective and careful with the progression of his career. However, when Rocky Marciano retired, D'Amato navigated a channel for his young fighter to the number one contender spot. On June 8, 1956, Patterson defeated Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson even though he suffered a broken hand 2 weeks before the fight. The victory positioned him to fight for the heavyweight title. On November 30, 1956, Patterson knocked out Archie Moore in Chicago to become the youngest world heavyweight champion.

Patterson has been described as a good guy in the bad world of boxing. His fans loved him—the way he fought and his admirable personality and quiet spirit. Cus D'Amato, his trainer, called him "a kind stranger." Red Smith, the New York Times sports columnist, called him "the man of peace who loves to fight" Patterson once said of himself, "You can hit me and I won't think much of it, but you can say something and hurt me very much."

Patterson's career as a boxer has set the standard for greatness in the world of boxing. He became the first to hold the heavyweight title twice. He suffered a hard loss to Swedish boxer Ingemar Johansson at Yankee Stadium on June 26, 1959, but regained the title a year later when he knocked out Johansson in the fifth round. Patterson said that it was the most gratifying moment in his life. He successfully defended his title until he fought "Sonny" Liston in September 25, 1962 in Chicago. Overall, Patterson finished 55–8–1 with 40 knockouts. Patterson was voted into the United States Olympic Committee Hall of Fame in 1987 and he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1991.

After he retired, Patterson became a passionate advocate for the sport of boxing. At a congressional subcommittee hearing he said, "I would not like to see boxing abolished. I come from the ghetto, and boxing is a way out. It would be pitiful to abolish boxing because you would be taking away the one way out." Patterson was a member of the New York State Athletic Commission, which supervises the sport of boxing in the state and from 1995 to 1998 he chaired the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of Floyd Patterson, an American hero.

## RECOGNIZING DEAN BYRD

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mrs. Dean Byrd of St. Joseph, Missouri. As a long time citizen of St. Joseph, Mrs. Byrd will be celebrating her 80th birthday. She has seen many events over the past 80 years and awoke each day with a strong sense of family and community that improved the lives of everyone she has touched. Her life should be celebrated with the same joy and excitement in which she gives back to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Mrs. Dean Byrd. Throughout her 80 years, she has always given back more than was expected of her. Her life is an inspiration to many and I am proud to serve her in the United States Congress.

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**HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARY CAMPBELL CENTER**
**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Mary Campbell Center, a facility serving disabled people in Delaware. The Mary Campbell Center has been home to thousands of people, some of who have lived there since the 1976 opening. Whether the residents of the Center have been there for a long or short time, they share in their daily lives of eating, learning, working, exercising, and playing with each other, the staff, and friends.

The Center is located on ten acres in Wilmington, Delaware. Amos and Mary Talley Campbell originally owned the property and lived there with their daughter, Evelyn, who was born with Down's Syndrome. Upon Mrs. Campbell's death, Mr. Campbell donated the land so that a long-term-care facility for Evelyn, and other people with disabilities, could be built in his wife's honor. Helping these individuals achieve a higher quality of life remains the main purpose of the Center.

Since its inception, the Center, home to 65 residents, has grown in many ways. What began as one building, now is a state-of-the-art facility with an indoor swimming pool, learning center, greenhouse, and an adaptive playground. These facilities help residents accomplish their dreams and keep in touch with family and friends.

I congratulate and thank those at the Mary Campbell Center for all they have contributed to the State of Delaware. Many disabled Delawareans and their families are grateful for them and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. Thank you to those who have made the Mary Campbell Center what it is today and to those who will carry on this tradition into the future.

## HONORING EVERETT ROBERTS

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Everett Roberts from my home town of Chattanooga, TN, for his unending efforts on behalf of the Girl Scouts of Moccasin Bend Council, who, on Sunday May 21st, will be dedicating their building on Dayton Boulevard to him for his years of tireless service and devotion.

Everett has served on the Board of the Moccasin Bend Council for almost 40 years as a member and chairman, and has been a vital asset to the Council's growth and success.

As the first male president of the Council in 1972, he is described by both friends and colleagues as a very special person who dedicates all of his energy to the improvement of the world around him.

Everett has been instrumental in developing Camp Adahi, the Girl Scout resident camp on Lookout Mountain in Georgia to provide outdoor programs for tens of thousands of girls, and his selfless commitment to the Girl Scouts serves as just one example of his vigorous dedication to the people and city he loves.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Everett Roberts for all he has done and continues to do for both the Girl Scouts of Moccasin Bend and the overall community in Chattanooga. He serves as a shining example of integrity, loyalty and leadership and I am proud to stand here on his behalf today.

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**TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOWNERS GROVE BOY SCOUT TROOP 89**
**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the members of Downers Grove Boy Scout Troop 89 in celebration of their 50th anniversary.

Since 1956, the Scouts of Troop 89 have acted as role models for the youth of our community. By teaching values like loyalty, kindness and thrift, the Scout program has given generations of our sons and grandsons the foundation they will need to live honorable and successful lives.

Both my husband and my son were Boy Scouts, so I know firsthand what a positive force Scouting can be. Scouts make outstanding leaders and volunteers who give of themselves to make communities like Downers Grove a better place in which to live.

So congratulations to the members of Troop 89—past, present, and future. After 50 years, you continue to make us all very proud. And thank you to the families and friends of these Scouts who have supported them over the years. Without you, we could not have hoped to celebrate this momentous anniversary.

## RECOGNIZING PAUL A. WHITE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul A. White of the Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence, Missouri. Mr. White is retiring after 45 years of service to Missouri's public libraries.

Paul began his service as a Branch Assistant in the Kansas City Public Library in 1961. Over the next 45 years, Paul would make stops in the Missouri State Library, Springfield-Greene County Library, and the Kinderhook Regional Library before settling in the Mid-Continent Public Library in 1988.

Beyond his official responsibilities, Paul participates in the American Library Association serving as the Missouri Chapter Councilor, on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the Committee on Organization. He also participates in the Missouri Library Association where he has served as treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president. Paul is currently serving on the Missouri Library Network Corporation and various Missouri Library Association Committees.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Paul A. White, an outstanding Missourian. His service to the community and dedication to Missouri's Public Libraries is greatly appreciated. He will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication over the years. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

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**IN HONOR OF AUXILIARY BISHOP RICHARD LENNON**
**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and recognize Auxiliary Bishop Richard Lennon and warmly welcome him to Cleveland. Today, Auxiliary Bishop Lennon will be installed as the 10th Bishop of Cleveland.

Born on March 26, 1947, in Arlington, Massachusetts, Auxiliary Bishop Lennon attended high school and undergraduate college in Massachusetts before receiving a Masters of Theology degree in Sacramental Theology from St. John's Seminary in 1973. That same year, a age 26, he was ordained a priest.

During his distinguished career with the church, Auxiliary Bishop Lennon has served as parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Nativity Church in Scituate, Massachusetts and held the same position at St. Mary Church in West Quincy, Massachusetts. In 1988, he was named assistant for canonical affairs at the Archdiocese of Boston. Auxiliary Bishop Lennon was ordained Auxiliary Bishop at the Boston Archdiocese in 2001, and went on to become apostolic administrator in 2002. In 2003, he became vicar general and moderator of the curia at the Boston Archdiocese in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and distinct pleasure, to welcome Auxiliary Bishop Lennon

to Cleveland. He has dedicated himself to our church, and to the betterment of all mankind. His distinguished record of service speaks volumes, and I look forward to working with him to strengthen our community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Auxiliary Bishop Lennon and welcoming him to Cleveland as our community's 10th Bishop. Today is a great day for the Catholic Church and the Cleveland community. Auxiliary Bishop Lennon brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, and I ask my Colleagues to join me in sharing in this tremendous day.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JENNY  
CHANG

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a former staffer, a friend and an inspiration, Jenny Chang.

When Jenny came to work in my office in 2003, she had already been through one round with a formidable opponent, breast cancer. But you certainly couldn't tell. She brought an energy and positivity rarely seen, and none of us will ever forget her laugh.

I admire leaders, and Jenny Chang was a leader. Jenny was student body president and president of her senior class at North Carolina State University—she was the first woman of Asian descent to hold that position. Through her battle with a terrible disease, Jenny reached out to fellow cancer sufferers and survivors and used her position on Capitol Hill to make a difference. Despite her illness, she worked on my colleague DAVID PRICE's campaign and in his Congressional office, making scores of new friends and admirers at each stop.

And for 8 months, she was the soul of my office, always showing how things can be done and how problems can be solved.

It saddened us all when Jenny's cancer returned and she had to take leave of my office and Capitol Hill.

Mr. Speaker, Jenny Chang passed away on April 29. We should all be so lucky to work with such a terrific soul as Jenny Chang. She did many great things in her short time with us. And what she left us—the memory of her smile, her spirit and her strength—is so much more than any of us could ever give her.

Sometime God takes the best of us far sooner than we want. I thank God for giving us our time with Jenny and I wish her family and friends my deepest condolences.

RECOGNIZING SHARON KOSEK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sharon Kosek of St. Joseph, Missouri. After long tenure in the St. Joseph, Missouri School District, Sharon will be retiring. Sharon has taught in the St. Joseph School District for the past 23 years and has recently

been named the Association for Career and Technical Education Outstanding Teacher in Community Service. She has been a model of strong service and civic leadership.

Sharon has served as the Business Coordinator and Administrative Office Systems instructor at the Hillyard Technical Center, as well as the advisor for the Phi Beta Lambda adult business student organization. Outside of the classroom, Sharon has remained active in the ACTE, Missouri ACTE, National Business Education Association, and as the Legislative Chairperson for the St. Joseph Parent Teacher Association.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Sharon Kosek. Her commitments to excellence in education and community service have remained as an inspiration to all of those people around her. She will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking her for all of her hard work and dedication over the years. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT CAROL A. CARTWRIGHT FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OHIO EDUCATION

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carol A. Cartwright, President of Kent State University, for 15 remarkable years of academic, community and national leadership. It has been my genuine pleasure to work with her on a range of priorities in northeast Ohio, including education and learning, economic development, healthcare and research.

Kent State has eight campuses, including the Stark campus in my District, with more than 34,000 students seeking from 2-year to Ph.D. degrees. Its leader must be a great communicator, able to multi-task and an innovative thinker in her approach to getting the job done. Carol Cartwright does that every day with a smile and a quick wit, as well as considerable knowledge and experience.

Throughout her career, Dr. Cartwright has been a role model for women in higher education and every walk of life. After working as a teacher, university professor, pioneering researcher in the field of special education and as a university executive officer, she made history in 1991 when she became Kent State University's first woman president and the first woman president of a public university in Ohio. From the outset of her presidency, she has been an active advocate of professional-development and personal-growth initiatives for women. In her first year of eligibility, she was elected to the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame.

She was also a member of the committee that worked with my wife, Mary, to bring the long-overdue idea of a National First Ladies Library to life, and Carol continues to serve on the Library's national board. She also serves on the American Council on Education Commission on Women in Higher Education and the board of directors of National Public Radio.

Carol has a clear commitment to all students, and she has been instrumental in build-

ing one of the finest programs in the nation to help GED candidates advance to pursue college degrees. I look forward every year to attending the graduation ceremony to hear wonderful success stories and to learn of students' academic achievements—thanks to the GED Scholars Initiative at Kent State.

On October 5, 2005, Dr. Cartwright, Kent State University's 10th president, announced her decision to step down from the leadership position she has held since 1991. She will retire from the presidency upon the arrival of her successor. I want to congratulate her on a tremendous job and wish Carol and her husband, Phil, health and happiness in the future.

VALLEY FEVER VACCINE  
DEVELOPMENT ACT

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Valley Fever Vaccine Development Act, which I introduced today.

Valley Fever or coccidioidomycosis is a serious human disease caused by the inhalation of a soil-borne fungus, *Coccidioides*, and particularly impacts public health in the southwestern United States, specifically California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Texas. According to researchers involved in the Valley Fever Vaccine Project, each year an estimated 130,000 people nationwide are exposed to Valley Fever and there are about 5,000 cases. Of those cases, between 2,500 and 5,000 are serious and about 500 people die from Valley Fever. The disease is especially prevalent in Kern County, California, which I represent; 1,540 cases were reported in 2004, which was an increase of 1,137 from the 403 cases reported in 2000. Similar increases have been reported in Arizona, where some anticipate the number of cases this year will exceed 4,000. Moreover, 46 Kern County residents died from Valley Fever from 2000 to 2004.

Valley Fever particularly affects those with impaired or less developed immune systems, including children and the elderly. The disease has a high incidence among minority populations as well as among those who work outside in occupations such as construction, agriculture, mining, energy, and the military. In addition, the disease also impacts those who engage in outdoor recreational activities, such as biking, golf, hiking, jogging, motorcycling, rock collecting, and tennis.

The drugs currently used to treat Valley Fever are often ineffective and the average hospitalization charges for the seriously ill exceed \$30,000. Accordingly, a preventative vaccine is desperately needed. Unfortunately, there currently is no vaccine for Valley Fever and there is no private industry interest in making the investment, estimated to be about \$40 million, needed for the development of the vaccine.

However, nonprofit organizations have sponsored exploratory research conducted by the Valley Fever Vaccine Project and their efforts have resulted in the identification of candidate vaccines for pharmaceutical development. While I greatly appreciate the \$930,000 that has been provided through the federal appropriations process since Fiscal Year 2003

for the California State University at Bakersfield (CSUB) Foundation to purchase equipment needed by the Valley Fever Vaccine Project, additional funding is needed to develop a vaccine, particularly as incidences of Valley Fever continue to increase while treatment options are limited.

Thus, I have introduced the Valley Fever Vaccine Development Act, which would authorize, from Fiscal Year 2007 through Fiscal Year 2012, funding for grants through the Centers for Disease Control for efforts to develop a vaccine to prevent and reduce the prevalence of this serious disease. As the development of a Valley Fever vaccine will directly enhance public health, I ask my colleagues to join me as I work to enact this important legislation.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this misguided budget resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

The Federal budget is much more than just a government document; it is a statement of our Nation's priorities and values. I am tremendously proud that in my first term as the Second District of North Carolina's Representative in the U.S. House, Congress and the President balanced the budget for the first time in a generation. Until just a few years ago, the budget remained balanced and the surpluses we produced were being used to pay down the national debt and strengthen the solvency of Social Security. But this Administration and the Republican Congressional Leadership have squandered the budget surpluses on wasteful tax policies and are running record budget deficits as far as the eye can see.

This budget offers more of the same failed policies and it flunks the test of moral leadership by increasing the burdens on the poor, the middle class, families struggling to get into the middle class and future generations. This budget contains devastating cuts to essential services for our families and will leave the statutory debt at a record level of \$11.3 trillion. The American people deserve better.

As the only former State schools chief serving in Congress, public education is my priority. Education holds the key to the American Dream for middle class families, and the Federal Government has a solemn obligation to help all of our people make the most of their God-given abilities. This budget eliminates 42 Federal education initiatives, cuts funding for education, social services and training by \$4.6 billion below the amount needed to maintain

purchasing power at the current level and will cut this funding more deeply each subsequent year.

Specifically, this budget completely dismantles: vocational education (\$1.3 billion); Perkins Loans (\$730 million); Safe and Drug-Free Schools state grants (\$347 million); GEAR-UP college readiness for low-income students (\$303 million); education technology (\$287 million); and Even Start family literacy services (\$99 million). The budget cuts \$15 billion from the amount authorized for the No Child Left Behind education reform effort and cuts the Federal contribution for special education from the current 17.7 percent to only 17.0 percent for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) despite years of rhetoric from the Republicans claiming to support IDEA. And while the costs of college continue to rise, this budget contains none of the funds needed to raise Pell Grants beyond the 2003 funding level.

In addition, this Republican budget resolution cuts funding for homeland security, including port security by \$6.1 billion over 5 years, cuts essential services for working families by \$9.4 billion, cuts veterans' health care by \$6.0 billion, slashes funding for health by \$18.1 billion below current services and fails to protect the environment by imposing a cut of \$25 billion over the next 5 years.

In contrast, the Spratt Substitute will balance the budget by 2012. It includes tough Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budget enforcement rules that require the cost of any new mandatory spending or revenue legislation to be fully offset. Vice President CHENEY has claimed "deficits don't matter," but the American people know better. The Spratt budget provides \$4.6 billion more for education in 2007 than the Republican budget and adds \$45.3 billion over 5 years that our States and communities desperately need for quality schools.

The Spratt Substitute keeps our commitment to veterans by including \$8.6 billion more than the Republican budget for veterans' health care. It provides \$6.5 billion more over 5 years for homeland security, including port security and rejects the Republican cut to Army National Guard troop strength and the cut to Cooperative Threat Reduction that protects America from weapons of mass destruction. The Spratt alternative budget provides \$18 billion more over 5 years to fund health priorities cut by the Republican budget, including medical research at NIH and CDC, rural health activities, and graduate medical education for children's hospitals. Finally, the Spratt Substitute rejects the Republican budget cuts for environmental protection and requires an honest, separate vote on any proposal to raise the limit on the national debt.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe the Federal budget is the public expression of our Nation's priorities and values. I urge Congress to reject the Republican budget that is wrong for America and support the Spratt Substitute that restores funding for essential services for a stronger country and a brighter tomorrow for our families.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR FONTANEZ

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing United States Army Private Victor Fontanez, a soldier who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri and the United States of America in his service to our country in World War II. Beginning his service in January of 1941, Victor served with the honor and integrity that we have come to admire.

In his military service during World War II, Victor landed in the 9th Infantry Division Company B 47th Infantry 1st Battalion engaged in the African section of the European Front. During an operation in April of 1943 located in Tunisia, Private Fontanez took shrapnel fire and was rewarded the Purple Heart. After recovery he was transferred to the 36th Infantry Division as a Combat Engineer in the Italian Campaign. After the liberation of Rome and victories throughout Italy, Victor and the 36th Infantry Division invaded Southern France on August 15, 1944.

During this invasion of France by the 36th Infantry, Private Fontanez had witnessed the explosion of an Allied plane over the beach. The plane and crew crashed into a lagoon nearby and Private Fontanez acting without hesitation rescued some of the injured flight crew. It was this act of selflessness and bravery that earned Private Fontanez the Soldiers Medal for Heroism.

Victor Fontanez's service to the United States of America in defending freedom will never be forgotten. His courage and dedication when his country needed him the most is something to be admired. I am honored to represent one of America's great heroes and I ask the United States Congress to join me in honoring his service.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
WILLIAMSON FLYING CLUB, INC.  
CELEBRATED ON MAY 18, 2006

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Williamson Flying Club, Inc. The Williamson Flying Club began as a shared dream by five men from Williamson, New York. These men held informal hearings to share their aspirations of wanting to fly and starting their own flying club. On May 4, 1956, these men began to realize part of their dream and purchased their first aircraft. With time, the group began to expand their membership and services. By May 18, 1956, the Williamson Flying Club became incorporated as a member corporation. In the beginning, the group operated from the Palmyra airport, later they moved to a dirt strip that became the Williamson-Sodus Airport. The Williamson-Sodus Airport was an 1800-foot runway that was seeded in July 1957. Over the years the runway has been upgraded and is now a 3,800 ft. hard surface asphalt runway with modern lighting and taxiways and

is always under improvement. By 1975 the club had expanded to 6 aircraft and today they have over 140 members.

The Williamson Flying Club, Inc. has a storied history ranging over five decades. As stated in their corporation certificate: "The purpose for which the corporation is to be formed are to promote and encourage interest in aviation and all allied sciences . . . to teach the members of the corporation to fly and improve their ability . . . to purchase . . . airplanes . . . airports, hangars . . . but not for profit." Out of a deep love and respect for aviation, the group carries an altruistic spirit to share and spread the wonders that flying can bring not only to individuals but also to the surrounding community.

I congratulate the Williamson Flying Club, Inc. on a successful history and wish them the best of luck for the many more years of flying they have ahead.

#### HONORING FAUSTO MIRANDA

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House in honor of Fausto Miranda, a legendary sports reporter and one of the most outstanding members of our Cuban-American community. Last week, Fausto Miranda passed away in his Miami home at the age of 91.

Miami and the Cuban people grieve in the face of this loss. Fausto Miranda was born on July 4, 1914, not knowing that history would turn this date into two reasons for him to celebrate. In 1960, Fausto Miranda came to the U.S. where, like so many other Cubans fleeing the newly installed Castro regime, he found a safe haven and the opportunity to continue his extraordinary journalistic career. The fourth of July from now on provided him with two reasons to celebrate—the day he was born and the day America became independent and turned into a home for the oppressed and persecuted.

Born and raised in the town of Puerto Padre in eastern Cuba, Fausto Miranda dreamt of becoming a lawyer; instead his poor background forced him to work in the sugar industry for a mere 30 pesos a month. Young Fausto was very shrewd when it came to making a living—he took on such diverse jobs as street vendor, prison guard, trumpeter, orchestra manager, doorman, cleaning person, music critic, social annalist, and political reporter.

At the age of 20, fate showed him where his real talent lay buried. Working as a stadium announcer, he one day passed his notes on to a journalist of *Diario de Cuba*, one of the count's major newspapers. The next day, the article on the baseball game that appeared in the *Diario* was signed by 'Fausto Miranda, Special Correspondent'. Years later, Fausto Miranda recalled: "The night the newspaper came out and I saw the article with my name, I did not sleep."

His career began to take off when he moved to Cuba's capital city of Havana in 1933. He started writing a column called "Stardust" which soon brought him further writing assignments for the newspapers *El Crisol*, *Información*, *Diario de la Marina* and

*Alerta* as well as a job as sports commentator for radio COCO. Fausto Miranda rose to become "an all-time pillar of Cuban sports journalism with an encyclopedic knowledge of baseball", according to Felo Ramirez, a veteran sports commentator and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Coopers-town.

During Fausto's time in Havana, the Cuban people were fortunate to have the best sports journalists in the hemisphere, including great personalities like Eladio Secades, Jessie Losada, and Pedro Galiana. When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, Miranda was president of the Sports Writer Association. Like so many other branches of the vibrant Cuban civil society, the Association was closed down by the dictator and Fausto Miranda was forced to flee the tyrant's grasp.

He arrived in New York City, the haven to so many freedom-seeking immigrants, where he once again started off by taking on a simple job as doorman before entering the American sports journalism. While his little brother Willy Miranda was out on the field playing for the New York Yankees, Fausto was reporting from the American sports world for a wide variety of national and international media. He wrote for the newspaper *La Prensa*, the *Gesto* magazine as well as the French news agency AFP, and broadcast for the radio stations Canal 47, Radio X and WQBA-La Cubanísima.

In 1975, Fausto moved to Miami where he founded the sports section of *El Miami Herald*, predecessor of *El Nuevo Herald*, the Spanish-language version of the *Miami Herald*. In his famed weekly column "Los viejos", Fausto Miranda revived the Cuban-American's community memories of their tropical homeland. The popularity he gained was so great that even after his retirement in 1995, Fausto continued to publish the popular weekly column.

The Cuban-American community mourns an outstanding man, whose love of sports would always drive him forward. Calling himself a "very bad athlete . . . very bad in everything", his passion for the athletic world paved his way from a stadium announcer to one of the Western Hemisphere's most high-profile sports journalists. Not even the murderous dictator Fidel Castro could stop him—from stardom in Havana, Fausto went to stardom in Miami.

Fausto Miranda was not only an annalist of the times when legends like the boxers Kid Chocolate and Joe Louis were attracting huge crowds, and baseball legends Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were filling the stadiums, but through his writing he also helped the Cuban American community to keep our memories of our native Cuba alive, "the most beautiful land human eyes ever beheld," as he once said. We will greatly miss him.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congress-

sional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the deficits proposed by this budget. We are at war. This should be a time of sacrifice for all Americans; it is not the time for gutting programs that help working families to pay for tax cuts to the wealthy among us. Sacrifice should be shared, not dumped on some of us.

Everywhere I go these days, people ask me when Congress will do something about the budget deficit—which will mean profound taxes on their children down the road . . . Republicans, Democrats, business people, laborers—everybody.

I keep telling them each budget we pass is worse and worse, growing the deficit at an incredible level. People used to say Congress was taxing and spending. These days Congress is borrowing and spending . . . worse, we're borrowing from our children. This budget grows both the deficit and the national debt. The deficits in this budget would, according to the report accompanying the resolution, lead to another debt limit increase of \$653 billion—on top of the \$3 trillion in debt ceiling increases already approved since President Bush took office.

And still . . . this resolution makes deep and harmful cuts to critical services for working families—including border security, education, and veterans' services. Democrats offer a budget today, that this House will certainly reject, that does not include the harmful cuts to domestic priorities while still reaching balance in 2012. It has smaller deficits than the Republican budget, accumulates less debt, and returns us back to paying for what we pass.

If we pass this budget resolution today—and I will vote no—this House is following the bad ideas in President Bush's budget, which continues the policies of the past 5 years that deeply cut into the spending for our homeland security, simply to pay for tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans.

The budget makes long-term damage in our real security . . . at a time the President and many in this Congress are saying the needs on the border are so severe that we must send the National Guard to protect the border. First, let me say how much I oppose deploying the Guard to the border . . . but let's talk about how we got to crisis on the border: it is entirely about calculated disregard to the security forces on the border.

The House budget shortchanges homeland security programs—cutting them by up to \$488 million this year and up to \$6.1 billion over 5 years from the amount needed to keep up with inflation. In December, when the 9/11 Commission issued its final report card, it gave the Bush Administration and this Congress a series of C's, D's, and F's on many areas in homeland security—including border security.

The only thing we have given border security is promises, but no money. We know generally how much it would cost for the recommendations the 9-11 Commission said was the very least we must do to make a dent in illegal immigration:

\$375 million for the detention beds the 9/11 Commission determined we need,  
\$340 million for the Border Patrol agents the 9/11 Commission determined we need.

Even with the VA treating more than 144,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan,

the House budget cuts veterans' health care by \$6 billion over 5 years, and increases TRICARE health care premiums for more than 3 million military retirees and their families.

Despite record enrollment growth from pre-K to college, the House budget makes the largest cuts in education in 23 years and provides \$15.4 billion less in funding than promised by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Even as college costs have risen 40 percent since 2001, this budget freezes the maximum Pell Grant for college at \$4,050—for the fourth year in a row. The budget denies more than 460,000 students low-cost loans and eliminates eight higher education programs, including GEAR-UP, TRIO Upward Bound, and TRIO Talent Search—all of which have made all the difference in the lives of South Texas students. These insulting cuts come just 2 months after the majority in this body voted to raid federal student aid programs by \$12 billion.

The other thing people are saying to me everywhere I go is: when will Congress raise the minimum wage? Gas prices are going up, food prices are going up . . . the cost of everything is going up EXCEPT for the minimum wage.

I urge my colleagues to reject the budget before us.

RECOGNIZING TYLER R. BOGGESS  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler R. Boggess, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities including High Adventure and the Brownsea Leadership Camp. Over the 11 years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. The city of Kearney, Missouri benefited from Tyler's leadership in the re-roofing of nine shelters at the Lions Park in Kearney for his Eagle Scout Service Project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler R. Boggess for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2006*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 788, a resolution

that honors and celebrates the 25th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service Observance Day on May 15, 2006. President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day in 1962. However, it was not until May 15, 1982 that the first National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service was held in Washington, DC. It is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agencies. The memorial that was created in Washington, DC stands as a daily reminder of these dangers facing our law enforcement officers and of how these brave men and women died facing them.

As a former police officer, I salute those law enforcement officials who died in the line of duty in 2005 and continue to honor those police officers who gave their lives in past years. As a member of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I strongly support critical funding for programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, to hire additional police officers and help law enforcement acquire the latest crime-fighting technologies. I will continue to be a strong supporter of the law enforcement community and will advocate on behalf of public safety in Congress.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and paying respect to our fallen heroes. As a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 788, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. EVANS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to John M. Evans, one of our Federal Government's finest public servants and a long time resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This March he retired from an exceptionally distinguished career of service to his country. He has served our Nation as a career civil servant for over 33 years. He has been an exceptional leader and has played a key role in ensuring effective financial management for the Department of Defense. It gives me pride to have the opportunity to honor him today for his tremendous accomplishments.

Mr. Evans began his career with the Navy in the financial management field working for various field activities. He progressed to a management position in the Military Traffic Management Command at the Department of Defense where he had responsibility for personnel and administration.

Mr. Evans first served in the Department of Defense Comptroller office as a senior budget analyst for a number of major Department of Defense-wide programs, including the DoD Family Housing Program, the DoD Real Property Maintenance Program, Navy Military Construction, and DoD Depot Maintenance.

Mr. Evans also served as the director for revolving funds beginning in April of 2000. While director, he was responsible for financial management oversight for all DoD revolving and working capital funds, including the Defense Working Capital funds.

Since 2001, Mr. Evans was the director for operations. As director, Mr. Evans was responsible for the Department's Operations and Maintenance appropriations, including programs that support the global war on terror and the Department's homeland security functions.

Senior leaders, both in the Congress and the Department of Defense, have benefited from Mr. Evans' experience, outstanding leadership, and distinguished performance. His efforts have enabled our Nation's leader to make the most effective use of defense resources to ensure America's military strength. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank him for his service to our country and wish him well on his retirement.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2231

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, and I ask my colleagues to work with me to pass this important legislation.

Last Sunday was Mother's Day, and in honor of all mothers, I rise today to stand with the National Breast Cancer Coalition and the 3 million American women living with breast cancer today to urge all my colleagues to push for passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act—H.R. 2231. Too many mothers, daughters, wives, and sisters are dying from breast cancer. We will not end this disease until we find out what causes it.

It is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, but the extent of that role is not understood. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors. However, there is little consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence. Furthermore, there are many other factors that are suspected to play a role but have not been fully studied.

Clearly, more research needs to be done to determine the relationship between the environment and breast cancer. What is needed is a collaborative, comprehensive, national strategy to study these issues. H.R. 2231 makes that strategy possible.

This bill would create a new mechanism for environmental health research. It would establish up to eight research centers to study environmental factors and their impact on breast cancer. Modeled after the successful Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research

Program, it would include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.

This Federal commitment is critical for the overall, national strategy and the long-term research investments needed to discover poten-

tial environmental causes of breast cancer, so that we can prevent it, treat it more effectively, and cure it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 2231, and I urge my colleagues to work with me to pass this bill this year.