

three years ago, Father John Washington, Reverend Clark Poling, Rabbi Alexander Goode and Reverend George Fox died aboard the USS (USAT) *Dorchester* on February 3, 1943, as a result of a torpedo attack by a German U-Boat.

In the mayhem after the attack, the Four Chaplains provided comfort to fallen soldiers and handed out life vests to the survivors. After the life vests ran out, they removed their own life vests, gave them to needy soldiers, and stood arm-in-arm together praying for the comfort of the soldiers. Eighteen minutes after the attack, the USS (USAT) *Dorchester* sunk with the Four Chaplains aboard. John Koenig, a resident of the 7th District of Virginia wrote of their sacrifice in a letter saying "By putting others in front of themselves without regard to race, creed, or color, thus in making the ultimate sacrifice costing each his life so that others might live, they exemplified the finest in saintly virtues."

On behalf of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Midlothian, Virginia, and the following members of the vestry: Alison Althouse—Senior Warden; Margaret Stevens—Registrar; Reverend Stephen Cowardin—Rector; Reverend Kathryn Jenkins; Rose O'Toole; Stewart Dendler; Leonard Vance; John Flikeid; Jo Anne Simpkins; Matthew Whitworth; Betsy Collins; Lois Thompson; Stefani Ross; Jennifer Wester; and William White, I am honored to recognize the sacrifices of the Immortal Four Chaplains of the USS (USAT) *Dorchester*.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. VINCENT,
JR.

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of honor, faith, family, and selfless service. On April 13, James (Jim) J. Vincent, Jr. lost his life when the County Rescue helicopter he was piloting had a catastrophic failure.

Jim Vincent was a native of my home town of Menominee, Michigan. Jim excelled at high school sports and developed discipline, leadership, and respect at an early age. He enlisted in the United States Navy, where he spent 6 years serving his country. Wanting to become a pilot, he joined the United States Coast Guard, received world-class training, and began flying search and rescue missions.

I had the pleasure of working with Jim when he moved to Traverse City, Michigan, and was based out of the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. On a couple of occasions I flew with Jim. His skills as a pilot were impeccable. He took his job seriously, and Jim was the consummate professional. He had an ability to relate and work well with officers, enlisted men, and civilians. He treated everyone with respect and was always willing to lend a hand.

There are countless stories of Jim helping others with everything from re-wiring their homes, to work at the local American Legion, to helping friends pack up and move during relocation for work. One of the more touching stories about Jim was told by a fellow Coast Guardsman who went through officer training school with him. This cadet was at a point

where he wasn't sure if he could complete the training. During one particularly difficult training task, Jim put his arm around his classmate and told him "You know what, it's gonna be all right." That classmate found strength in Jim's words and managed to complete officer training school. He went on to become Cmdr. Sam Creech, who is now the operations officer at Jim's old base, Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.

After 20 years of combined service in the Navy and Coast Guard, Jim and his family moved back home to Menominee where they could be near their extended family and build their dream home. Jim, his wife Gina, their sons, Jim III and Luke, and their daughter, Vanessa, worked together on construction of their home overlooking the waters of Green Bay. They put a lot of sweat and love into the home.

Jim worked for a while as a contract employee for the Navy at the Marinette Marine shipyard, just across the Michigan/Wisconsin border from Menominee. However, Jim wanted to continue to fly helicopters. In the summer of 2004 he landed a job with County Rescue flying Eagle III, an emergency air and ground transportation program, which provides Critical Care level treatments during rapid transport of critically ill or injured patients. The job was just outside Green Bay, Wisconsin, which required days away from home. Jim found the job very rewarding and by all accounts, he quickly earned the respect and admiration of his peers. While he was serious about his job, he also had a great sense of humor—often playing pranks on co-workers.

Mr. Speaker, for anyone who works in the military there are significant sacrifices that their families make in terms of time away from the family. While Jim did need to spend time away from his family throughout his career, he always had a deep love for his family. Jim had a strong faith in God and was an active member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. He and Gina believe in the power of God. In February they attended a conference put on by Father John Corapi and Jim was fond of Father Corapi's teachings. Now, as Gina, Jim III, Luke, and Vanessa struggle to move forward with their lives, they have turned to God for strength and comfort. With this strong faith, support from family and friends, and with time, I am confident that they will find the strength to persevere.

As we commemorate this Memorial Day, I am reminded of a beautiful sunny summer day in Traverse City when Jim Vincent walked across the Coast Guard hanger to greet a veteran who was seated awaiting the start of a program. As Jim approached the veteran, he reached out to shake the man's hand and simply said, "Sir, thank you for your service to our country." The veteran's eyes welled with tears as he replied, "You're welcome." So as I conclude Mr. Speaker let me simply say "Jim, thank you for your service to our country."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the Agri-

culture Appropriations Act of 2007, on May 23, 2006, I inadvertently voted in favor of an amendment, H. Amdt. 895, offered by Representative BLUMENAUER.

It was my intention to vote in opposition to the amendment. My true intention was to vote "no."

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union has under consideration the bill (H.R. 5427), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the chairman and staff of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee for their continued support of the Florida Everglades FY07 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

This legislation includes funding for the Army Corp of Engineers to proceed with Everglades Restoration, which will ensure natural water flows continue through Everglades National Park.

The Florida Everglades is a unique and precious ecosystem that must be preserved for future generations. Everglades Restoration is an invaluable investment that will ensure the Everglades is restored and protected.

I am pleased that the chairman included \$164 million for Everglades Restoration, which is so critical to ensuring continuation of this vital project. Just last week, the Interior Appropriations bill included an additional \$69 million for Restoration. The funding provided in the Interior bill, combined with that in the Energy and Water bill, will together provide a total of \$233 million to allow restoration to move forward.

I thank my colleagues from Florida for their continued support of the Florida Everglades and Restoration funding. Additionally, I would like to thank the Governor of Florida for his steadfast support of Everglades Restoration. Floridians understand the great benefit the Everglades provide not just to our ecological diversity, but also to our economy, which is so dependent upon tourism and ecotourism.

On behalf of myself, and the residents of southern Florida I am so proud to represent, I thank the chairman for his support of this funding.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERNON AND DARLENE BURK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vernon and Darlene Burk for their 55 years of marriage and for their service to the Boulder City community.

Their 55 years of marriage exemplify a loving relationship. They both are hard-working, generous, compassionate, resourceful, wise and are outstanding role models for their four children, Dianna, Karen, Jackie, and Michael and six grandchildren.

Vernon and Darlene's exceptional character is evident in their professional lives as well. Vern served the Clark County School District for 30 years, retiring as the Associate Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation. He now serves on the Boulder City Hospital Board. As a small business owner, Darlene ran the Burk Fine Arts Gallery for 25 years. Darlene not only participated in the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, she also served as President. During her time with the Chamber of Commerce, she was instrumental in creating the Old Town Merchants Association and was named "Woman of the Year."

Both Vernon and Darlene are extremely active in Bethany Baptist Church, where Vernon is on the Board of Elders and Darlene had served as treasurer. Five years ago, the Burk Horizon Academy, an alternative high school in Las Vegas, was named in their honor. They also managed the renovation of the Boulder City Dam Hotel, a historic landmark and place to be for the rich and famous during the 1930s.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Vernon and Darlene Burk on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. They are very good, personal friends of mine, and I thank them for their continued service to the State of Nevada.

RECOGNIZING ARTURO S.
RODRIGUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague from California, Mr. BERMAN, to pay tribute to Arturo S. Rodriguez, president of the United Farmworkers of America, a longtime advocate for the rights of workers and working families.

Rodriguez was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, and earned a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University in 1971 and a master's degree in social work in 1973 from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Rodriguez learned of the farmworker movement and Cesar Chavez in 1966 from his parish priest, and became active with the farmworker movement as a college student. He first met Cesar Chavez in 1973, and soon after married Chavez' daughter, Linda.

Throughout the 1970s, Rodriguez worked with United Farm Workers to push for farm worker rights, including the pioneering Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which passed the California State Legislature in 1975. Rodriguez helped organize union representation elections throughout California, from the Salinas Valley to the Imperial Valley on the Mexican border to Ventura County citrus orchards. By fall 1979, Rodriguez was directing a UFW lettuce boycott in Michigan.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Rodriguez was directly involved with renewed grape boycotts, involving pressure on business, a public fast by Chavez, and walkouts

by grape workers to try and gain the first wage increase in 8 years. The UFW-supported 1992 grape worker walkout was a part of the largest vineyard demonstrations since 1973 in the Coachella and San Joaquin valleys. The UFW organized thousands of workers at dozens of ranches to participate in the walkouts. Those efforts produced an industry-wide pay raise.

Rodriguez became UFW president in May 1993, shortly after Cesar Chavez' death. Rodriguez recruited 10,000 new farmworkers as associate union members in the year after he assumed the UFW presidency. On the first anniversary of the Chavez' passing, Rodriguez led a 343-mile Delano-to-Sacramento march retracing the steps of an historic trek by Chavez in 1966. Since then, the UFW has won over 20 union elections and signed over 20 new, or first-time, contracts with growers.

Farm workers under most UFW contracts at mushroom, rose, citrus, strawberry, wine grape and vegetable companies enjoy decent pay, complete family medical care, job security, paid holidays and vacations, pensions and a host of other benefits. Unfortunately, the majority of farm workers in California and the rest of the nation still have none of these protections. Arturo Rodriguez continues to advocate for federal legislation that would allow undocumented farm workers and their family members to earn legal status by working in agriculture.

Rodriguez lives at the UFW's national headquarters at La Paz in Keene, Calif. He has three children, Olivia, Julia and Arthur IV, plus two grandchildren, Isabella and Sofia. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Artie for his commitment to farmworkers and their families throughout our Nation.

HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
EDUCATION TASK FORCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African American Task Force for its clear record of success in encouraging and acknowledging academic achievement by African American youth in Oakland, California.

This month, the African American Education Task Force Held its Fifth Annual Awards Celebration at the ACTS Full Gospel Church in Oakland. At this celebration, almost 1,200 African American students from the 8th through 12th grades were honored for attaining grade point averages of 3.00 or above for the 2005-2006 school year.

These outstanding young people's accomplishments are especially remarkable in light of the great budgetary challenges faced by the State of California and the Oakland schools. I want to commend each and every student being honored for this outstanding accomplishment for understanding the importance of staying in school and the responsibility each individual has to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to him or her. By continuing to be the best students you can be and completing your education, you will have more opportunity to achieve your personal goals and our shared goal of world peace. Your accomplishments represent your dedication and commitment to achieving your

goals, and I am proud of you. The skills you have learned and the discipline you have developed will benefit you greatly.

I am honored to represent you in the United States House of Representatives, and on behalf of all the residents of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I again salute you on your exemplary academic performance. I am confident that in the years to come you will continue your record of service and success, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

SUN WALL

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to direct the administrator of General Services to install a photovoltaic system, known as the "Sun Wall" on the headquarters building of the Department of Energy. There is no more appropriate Federal building with which to demonstrate the power and promise of photovoltaics than the Department of Energy headquarters building, known as the Forrestal Building, located in Washington, DC.

Photovoltaics reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and offer distinct advantages over diesel generators and primary batteries. Photovoltaics are highly efficient and have no moving parts, so the need for maintenance is virtually nonexistent. Over 25 Federal buildings throughout the country, from Boston, MA, to San Francisco, CA, already use photovoltaics to great effect.

Located in our Nation's Capital, the Sun Wall project will serve as a model for the entire country. The design for the Sun Wall project has already been selected after an open competition. It is an attractive and energy efficient design that can generate a maximum of 200 kW of electricity and includes a solar thermal installation for hot water and hot air. The Sun Wall would be the largest building-integrated solar energy system on any Federal building in the country. All that is left to do is to provide the funding needed to purchase and install the proper equipment.

Mr. Speaker, an identical provision to this bill was enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58, last August. While the bill authorized funding for fiscal year 2006, no funding was appropriated for that year. This bill offers the same language as was included in that act, but allows funding to be appropriated in fiscal year 2007.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, the House considers H.R. 4681, legislation that I'm sad to say is both overbroad in its reach and misses the mark by penalizing the Palestinian people without compelling Hamas to abandon its anti-Israeli rhetoric, its rejectionist policies and its support for terror and violence.