

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL WALTER E. GASKIN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Georgian and a great American, MG Walter E. Gaskin, who is taking command of the 2nd Marine Division this week, in this, his 32nd year in the United States Marine Corps.

Major General Gaskin was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, and attended Savannah State University on a Naval ROTC scholarship. He graduated in 1974 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. Upon completing training, he was assigned to the Second Marines. He served as a Rifle Platoon Commander and Executive Officer of Company K and the 106 Recoilless Rifle Platoon Commander for 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines.

The young Marine went on to be stationed in Okinawa and at Parris Island, before returning home to Savannah to serve as the Marine Officer Instructor and recruiting officer for Naval ROTC at his alma mater. While in Georgia, he also served as the assistant Officer Selection Officer at the Recruiting Station in Macon.

In 1984, Gaskin joined the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines where he served as an Operations Officer. From there he was selected to attend the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. From 1987 until 1990, he served as an action officer at Marine Corps Headquarters and Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC), in charge of Unit Environmental Training Programs, Jungle, Cold Weather, and Combined Arms Exercises. Next, Gaskin served as Head, Ground Forces Branch in Seoul, South Korea, then as an Operations Officer for the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force during exercises in Norway.

Gaskin then attended the U.S. Army War College and was subsequently assigned as the Executive Officer, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division. In 1995, he assumed command of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, and later he deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as the Commanding Officer of Battalion Landing Team under the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. There he participated in Operation Assured Response and Quick Response in Defense of American Embassies in Liberia and the Central African Republic. In 1998, he returned to Camp Lejeune as Head of Expeditionary Operation for the Second Expeditionary Unit.

In January 1999, Major General Gaskin assumed command of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. In September of that year, he deployed with them to the Mediterranean Sea as Landing Force Sixth Fleet. While there, the 22nd participated in the Bright Star Exercises in Egypt and the Infinite Moonlight Exercises in Jordan. His unit also served as the Strategic Reserve for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In March 2000, he became the Commanding General, Training Command, Training and Education Command, MCCDC. Major General Gaskin then rose to Chief of Staff, Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe and Deputy Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Europe, in Naples, Italy. He took command of Marine Corps Recruiting Command in September 2004. In October 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Major General.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star in lieu of 2nd award, Bronze Star with combat "V," Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 2 Gold Stars in lieu of 3rd award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, Major General Gaskin is the highest ranking African American in the Marine Corps. He is an inspiration for young men and women, and I stand here to honor him today for his years of service to this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN A. SAIDEL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jonathan A. Saidel, former Controller for the City of Philadelphia.

Jonathan Saidel served as Philadelphia's City Controller for 16 years, winning reelection most recently in 2001 with 87.5 percent of the vote. As Controller, he has won local and national plaudits for reforming and professionalizing the Controller's office, his dedication to fiscal discipline, and proposing innovative ideas to grow Philadelphia. His 1999 book "Philadelphia: A New Urban Direction" continues to be used as a textbook in college level urban studies courses.

Jonathan Saidel has been called "a taxpayer's best friend" for his outspoken advocacy of reducing Philadelphia's crushing tax burden in order to spur economic development and stop the exodus of people and jobs from the city. His work with then Mayor Edward Rendell in the early 1990's helped return Philadelphia from the brink of bankruptcy. His groundbreaking audits and proposed government reforms have saved the taxpayers over 500 million dollars since 1990.

Jonathan Saidel is a great humanitarian involved with political causes and organizations too numerous to mention, serving on the Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army and the Variety Club. He is a Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Center of Government and teaches Government Finance as an Adjunct Professor in the MBA Program at Drexel University.

Mr. Speaker, Jonathan Saidel has long been recognized for his outstanding commu-

nity and civic involvement, and it is for these reasons that I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, 2006 I missed recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 226, 225, 224, and 223.

TOM FOX, AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Tom Fox, an American hero who tirelessly gave his life to help bring peace to Iraq but whose life was mercilessly taken from us at the hands of killers on March 9, 2006. I am here to commemorate the life of such a selfless and dedicated individual.

Mr. Fox was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and graduated with a double degree in music performance and education from George Peabody College for Teachers, which is now part of Vanderbilt University, in Nashville. An accomplished musician, he joined the Marine Band and spent twenty years playing his clarinet for them.

His passion gradually shifted from music toward peace activism and he joined the Quaker Church. His views on non-violent social activism strengthened his resolve to fight against the injustices in the world. In 2002, he joined the Christian Peacemakers Team and traveled to one of the most dangerous and violent parts of the world, Iraq.

For two years, he devoted his time and energy to promoting peace and understanding between Christians and Muslims, Iraqis and Americans. In partnership with local Iraqi human-rights organizations, he committed himself to non-violent forms of intervention, such as accompanying young Iraqi refugee children to the Syrian border, and living in the same conditions as ordinary Iraqis in the downtown quarters of a Baghdad neighborhood—without security or protection around his apartment dwelling.

His dedication for helping others was always apparent in everything he did. A quiet, good-natured soul, he insisted on understanding the hearts and minds of every person he met, believing that "there is part of God in every person". His complete faith in the goodness and humanity of others allowed him to stand through more violence and hatred than most of us will ever see in our lives.

• 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.

Despite the roadside bombings that he walked by, despite the mortars that fell above his home, and despite the death threats he received before being kidnapped, Mr. Fox always understood why he was in Iraq. In his own words, he said: "We are here to root out all aspects of dehumanization that exist within us. We are here to stand with those being dehumanized by oppressors and stand firm against that dehumanization. We are here to stop people, including ourselves, from dehumanizing any of God's children, no matter how much they dehumanize their own souls."

His legacy will always serve as a testament that to fight for what you believe in and to understand others is not to use violence or coercion. We preserve the dignity of our humanity and our goodness by each loving action we take on behalf of others.

"Too many are willing to die for war and too few are willing to die for peace."

[From Connection Editorial, Mar. 16, 2006]

TOM FOX

In the pages of *The Connection*, since the beginning of the war in Iraq, we have periodically been called to write obituaries for men and women who have been killed in the conflict both in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These were people who traveled to Iraq in service to their country. Losing them has been devastating to family and friends; their grief is sometimes tempered by knowing that their loved one died in doing something they believed in.

The war in Iraq also served as a call to service to Tom Fox of Springfield. It was a call of a different kind, but one driven by deep conviction and a sense of duty. Fox, a Quaker and a pacifist, was troubled by the U.S. military response to terrorism, and traveled to Iraq as part of a Christian Peacemaker Team.

Fox and other members of his team were taken hostage in November 2005, and Fox's body was found last week.

The Christian Peacemaker Teams group "embraces the vision of unarmed intervention waged by committed peacemakers ready to risk injury and death in bold attempts to transform lethal conflict through the non-violent power of God's truth and love."

In a Feb. 16, 2005 interview with the *Connection Newspapers*, Fox said he believed peace in Iraq could only be achieved through non-violence.

"[The Iraqi] people are not being served by violence," Fox said. "It doesn't help anyone. There is always going to be conflict, but it's a question of how we deal with it. Do we settle problems with words, or do we bring out the clubs and act like cavemen?"

Tom Fox's friends and associates say that he would forgive his kidnappers and his killers, knowing that they acted out of fear. He would reject any anger or any effort at reprisal.

Fox wrote: "We reject violence to punish anyone. We ask that there be no retaliation on relatives or property. We forgive those who consider us their enemies. We hope that in loving both friends and enemies and by intervening nonviolently to aid those who are systematically oppressed, we can contribute in some small way to transforming this volatile situation."

It is remarkable to see fellow human beings who walk in the path of their convictions. It is heartbreaking to see the person die as a result.

But his death was not futile—no more than the death 2,000 years ago of the one he followed.

[From the Springfield Connection, Mar. 23, 2006]

CARRYING THE LIGHT: FRIENDS OF TOM FOX REMEMBER HIS LIFE, URGE PEACEMAKING WORK TO CONTINUE AFTER HIS DEATH

(By Amber Healy)

In the nearly two weeks since news of his death became public, friends of Springfield native Tom Fox have been trying to make peace with their friend's passing.

He was no martyr, they say. Rather, he would most likely be uncomfortable with all the attention focused on his work in Iraq as part of the Christian Peacemaker Teams for the past few years.

"When Tom went to Iraq, we saw a side of him that we weren't aware of before," said Doug Smith, clerk of the Langley Hill Meeting of Friends, a Quaker congregation in McLean.

Fox kept a blog in which he wrote about his struggles and work in Iraq, Smith said, which provided a deeper look into a man who had a "depth of spirit" he didn't reveal to many people.

Smith thinks it was this unassuming nature that helped Fox connect with the Iraqi people, living among them in Baghdad for three- or four-month intervals since 2003 and collecting their stories of loved ones who had been imprisoned or taken hostage.

"He was able to sit and talk with just about anyone," Smith said. "There wasn't anything extraordinary about him."

Fox joined Christian Peacemaker Teams, a non-government organization promoting peace, with headquarters in Chicago and Toronto, as an alternative to impending war after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He did not join CPT with the intent of going to Iraq, Smith said, but instead because "it was something he wanted to do. He liked that [they were] a group that tried to get into the middle of a conflict, hear all sides and find a way to bring them together."

As a Quaker, Fox was following in "a long history of peace work and social activism," something he ultimately gave his life for, Smith said.

The Rev. Carol Rose, a director at CPT, said she first met Fox when he began the training all volunteers go through before being assigned to one of the eight conflict zones they work in around the world.

While in the middle of one of the most dangerous places in the world, Rose said Fox "always had a peaceful presence. He was very much at home there," despite being well aware that, as a foreigner, especially as an American, it would be best to keep a low profile.

Fox all but refused to "blend in," she said, instead preferring to go to checkpoints around Fallujah, talking with the guards who worked there and the residents who spent hours waiting to cross to the other side.

Fox had a natural curiosity and desire to learn about the people he'd meet, said Rose.

"There was no hope in trying to keep Tom hidden, there was no way to keep him from standing out," she laughed. "He was well-known and well-loved by his Iraqi colleagues."

CPT's continues in Iraq, she said, despite Fox's death and the uncertain fate of Harmeet Sooden, James Looney and Norman Kember, three coworkers who were kidnapped along with Fox back in November. Fox was the first CPT member to be killed in Iraq, she said.

If things had worked out differently, Fox could have been assigned to work in Palestine, or on a Native American reservation in Canada, or in Colombia, where other CPT workers are placed. Instead, he made himself at home in Iraq, said longtime friend Paul Slattery.

"Tom had a quiet self-assurance that this was where he wanted to go, that there were people in Iraq that were hurting and he had to go and do what he could to help them," Slattery said.

Working in Iraq, helping to create a Muslim group based on the CPT practices, was the "high point" of Fox's life, he said.

"If Tom had come back here and lived to retirement age, I can see him sitting in a rocking chair and looking back on his life in Fallujah and Baghdad with a smile on his face," Slattery said.

There have been moments when Slattery said he has questioned himself, wondering if maybe he should have been more assertive of his skepticism.

"But he wanted to do this, and it was my job to support him. I don't feel guilty, but in a way I do feel bad, that maybe in some way I wasn't the advocate for the people who loved him and didn't want him to do it," he said. "But that wasn't my role."

Fox had a strong faith and an equally strong belief that he was "called" to go to Iraq, despite the dangers he knew were there, said friend Pearl Hoover, minister of the Northern Virginia Mennonite Church in Fairfax. Since Fox's death, Hoover said part of the loss people have been feeling is the sense of love that emanated from him.

"Tom knew how to love and let someone be where they are instead of where he thought they should be," she said.

Some people may find it difficult to understand why he felt so compelled to put himself in a war zone in the name of peace, Hoover said, but it is no different than a soldier signing up to serve his or her country.

"It is just as costly to be a peacemaker as it is to be a warrior," she said.

The last time Fox was in Virginia, he met with his support group at the McLean Family Restaurant to catch up, share stories and photographs, said close friend Hoyt Maulden. Something didn't seem quite right when Fox arrived, said Maulden, but he didn't know what it was until Fox pulled out a large, brightly colored gift bag that was "uncharacteristically loud and colorful and flashy."

Fox had brought back a hand-hammered copper plate from a market in Iraq, which he had wrapped in gift bags for the five people he kept in closest contact with while working overseas, Maulden said.

"Tom always went out of his way to do the right thing, and in this case, he wanted to do it up right and make it a special event to give us these gifts," he said.

Memories like that one have been a comfort to Maulden since learning of Fox's death, but he said it has been more comforting talking with people who understand why Fox was working in Iraq, why it was important to him and why it must continue.

"Tom was so ordinary in some ways, but that is what's important to remember," he said. "It doesn't take a superhuman kind of person to do what he did. Tom didn't do anything other than be faithful to what he believed in."

[From the Springfield Connection, Mar. 23, 2006]

A SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE

(By Amber Healy)

A little over a year ago, I had the opportunity to sit and talk with Tom Fox in the Borders bookstore in Springfield. We spent a little over an hour and a half talking about his work in Iraq, his dedication to peace and the path he felt he was called to take. Neither of us had any way of knowing where that path would take him a few months later, nor could he have imagined the impact that conversation has had on me, both personally and professionally.

Tom spoke about his life and his work with directness that told more about his sense of purpose in life than any article, any movie, or tale ever could. He believed in the life he led, in the work he did, in the people of Iraq so much that he put himself in harm's way for months at a time over the past three years. And while he may not come back to tell us all he learned, all the progress he made, all the stories he heard of suffering and hard work and struggles, his life speaks volumes.

A father of two grown children, Tom left behind a life of respectable hard work as the assistant manager of a department in a Whole Foods, a life of routine and safety, to put himself where he felt needed. He joined the Christian Peacemaker Teams to go into war zones, places by definition rife with danger, where his life would be threatened just by being there. He was trained about the dangers, make no mistake about that. He was warned, he was prepared, he was unwavering in what his mission in life held. He put himself, as CPT members vow, in the way.

Tom was not the first American to die in Iraq. He's not even the first person outside the war to lose his life there. So what makes his loss different? What can we learn from the life and death of a 54-year-old man?

He can teach us about forgiveness. Tom would want us to forgive the person who killed him because his violent death was an act of fear, not an act of terrorism. His capture, along with James Looney, Harmeet Sooden and Norman Kember, his CPT co-workers, was an act of desperation, not one of hatred. The actions of the members of the Swords of Righteousness Brigade have been out of anger at something bigger than these four men. It was retaliation, perhaps, but they picked the wrong people to victimize. He would be quick to point out that thousands of Iraqis have lost loved ones, through kidnapping or death, for decades. He would mention that his death is one of countless others in the name of war. He would not want to be made an example of, he would not want to be seen as anything other than another loss during wartime. He was a soldier for peace.

For the teenagers who knew Tom and spent time with him at Quaker retreats or youth groups, I am so terribly sorry for your loss. Your teacher has brought you to a point where you can follow in his footsteps in whatever way you are meant. His love of life can be found in all of your smiles, the memories you have of him, the stories you share with each other.

For the members of the Langley Hill Friends Meeting, I grieve with you for the loss of your Friend. He was a truly remarkable man who will be missed more than any of us can say. But the life he led was full of light.

For Tom's children, my heart breaks for you. I have no words to help ease your pain or offer you sufficient comfort. Your father belonged to you more than anyone, and you shared him with all of us. We are so grateful for that, and I hope that might bring you some comfort.

Peace is possible. We just have to remember that it still exists, it can be found, in time of turmoil and grief and war and seemingly insurmountable pain and suffering. The light is always there, even in the darkest night, the most frightening storm, the most painful tests. Peace is always within reach if you stretch out your hand to find it.

[From the (Alexandria) Gazette/The Connection Newspapers, Apr. 6, 2006]

SPeAKING FROM THE SILENCE OF THE FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRIA MEETING: QUAKER FRIENDS AT WOODLAWN EXPERIENCE THE CONTINUING REVELATION OF HISTORY, COMMUNITY, SPIRITUALITY

(By John Teschner)

A few minutes before 11 a.m., the greetings and conversations in the hallway are petering out and the Friends of the Alexandria Meeting at Woodlawn are slipping into the meeting room to begin worship. Despite the faint hum of voices still audible outside, the silence within the room envelopes each friend as he or she steps through the door into the stillness.

The room is either 155 or 140 years old, depending on which side of the room the question refers to. Its white walls with dark wood paneling are interrupted frequently by windows, and the sunlight streams through the clear panes. A wood stove still sits on one side of the room, but on this clear and cold March morning the warm air is flowing from modern vents. The wooden benches face towards the center, parallel to the walls behind them. They are constructed simply and solidly. Some bear graffiti left by the bored hands of idle men. They are the name of people and places, Union soldiers temporarily hospitalized or picketed on a long patrol, leaving a record that they existed, that they had a home.

The worship meeting has begun, though no one has begun it. The stillness folds inward.

"Quakers believe that they come into worship to wait on God. We believe in continuing revelation, that God directs us. By sitting in this silence and listening we receive that direction and support," said Linda Spitzer, the clerk of Woodlawn Quaker Friends Meeting, a position that, like many aspects of the Quaker community, resists definition but is essentially an elected executive who serves a three-year term.

"You're there with your own thoughts," said Meghan Evans, a Friend in the meeting.

"Holding things up to the light," added Christine Fernsler, who is a teacher at Sidwell Friends School.

Meeting lasts one hour. It is possible the entire hour may be spent without a word being spoken. More commonly, a Friend will be moved to stand and make a statement, putting into voice thoughts engendered by the meditative silence. These statements are usually brief and infrequent. Even a "talkative" meeting will contain more silence than speaking. But words dropped into stillness are heavy, and the ripples they leave in people's thoughts last long after the speaker has taken a seat again.

"When people speak out of the silence, we often hear that of God in them . . . It's not a canned sermon, what bubbles up is what's on people's mind," said Spitzer.

"What's coming out of meeting—spoken and unspoken—is perspective," said Holly Mason. "It changes your priorities—what's really important or less important. That's what all religion really does . . . Meeting is the format that works for me to worship . . . it puts a lot more responsibility on you, on the individual. The ministry is not the responsibility of some overreaching priest or clergy, but from within and from each person."

The Alexandria Friends Meeting at Woodlawn was founded by a group of Quakers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. They moved to the area in the late 1840's for two reasons: to find oak timber suitable for selling to Northern builders of clipper ships and to start a plantation that would employ free blacks and prove that it was possible to make money without slave labor. "You see

how practical these people were," says Jones.

Quakers find diverse ways of bringing the spirituality of meeting into their lives. During the announcements after the meeting, Mason stood up and offered to teach people how to make soap. "I just want to fill my house with people I make soap as a hobby and I want to invite people over," she explained.

"Most of us Quakers . . . think it's really important to put into action what we believe in any way that we are gifted or led. Even though it is a mystical religion, we get involved in the world . . . the mix of mysticism and practicality is why it appeals to me," said Nancy Jones, the meeting's liaison to Ventures in Community, a coalition of social services and faith-based organizations along Route 1. "If God is in everyone of us—when I say God I mean the spirit, life, there are so many names and they're all inadequate—if that presence is within everyone, that leads to certain ways of relating to other people and the world—animate or inanimate . . . I'm comfortable with one-on-one interactions with people. So I find myself situations where I get to relate in that way . . . That's one of my strengths and gifts." One way Jones expresses her gift is by being a chaplain at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. She also has volunteered, along with other Friends, with the Hypothermia Project, staying overnight at Rising Hope's temporary shelter for homeless people during the cold months.

Glenn Elvington describes how Quakers view the business and budget decision-making process as a "spiritual exercise." In earlier days, "One of the few reasons to be read out of a meeting was to go bankrupt," he said. "The way Quaker spiritual practice blends into everything we do in interacting with the real world is through business meetings. Business meetings held with a sense of worship." During these meetings the clerk attempts to "get a sense of the meeting" in order to reach a decision. The sense is based more on a spiritual intuition of compromise and agreement rather than on winner-take-all votes or autocratic executive decisions.

"Sometimes people think Quakers are maybe naive," said Fernsler, "but it's a really thought-through seeking to nourish what's good in others. I know it's not so easy sometimes."

Quakers are and have been active in movements for prison reform, abolition, equal rights, and peacemaking. In the 19th century, many Quaker homes were stops on the Underground Railroad that helped escaped slaves reach free states. In the 21st century, Quakers have been prominent in the anti-war movement. Tom Fox, who was taken hostage and ultimately murdered in Baghdad, attended the Woodlawn Meeting until the mid-1980's. Some of his family members still attend the meeting, and many Woodlawn Friends shared strong bonds with Fox.

"That's where the peacemaking is rooted, in building fellowship between people," said John Stephens, who has helped manage a memorial Web site for Fox. He was discussing Quakerism's identity with Christianity and its philosophical roots in the bible. Stephens cites the letters of Paul, which describe the Eucharist as the simple act of sharing a meal and bringing people together. "That is really what Tom [Fox] was most involved in," Stephens said, "sharing meals with people and building civility on frontiers between friend and enemy."

Gordon Roesler describes the meeting's participation in the Friends Committee on National Legislation. "One of their primary goals is increasing peace and opposing war

. . . Peacemaking of course is more than just anti-war, much more."

"And more than just legislation," Stephens adds.

"We believe that peacemaking is very local as well as international," Roesler said. He explains that the meeting works closely with United Community Ministries, a local non-profit. "We view that as peacemaking." Stephens added to this. "What Tom's example reveals to us is that peacemaking is not so much laying demands on the others but enduring sacrifice to serve others . . . Much of peace activism [as practiced by other entities] is making decisions for others." But "Christian peacemaking emphasizes serving rather than dominating . . . With Christian peacemakers, most of the work involves accompaniment, being with groups under attack." But, Stephens said, Fox and his colleagues found that in Iraq their presence often exacerbated violence. So they "had to reinvent" their role. They "trained a Muslim peacemaker task force" and on how to navigate the bureaucracy of the different governing organizations that hold power in the country.

Tom Fox's death brought his work to the attention of the country, but the Friends at Woodlawn remember a life dedicated to small acts of fellowship. Warren Treuer's lasting memory dates from two decades ago, when Fox knew he would be moving to a new meeting. "One of the last things he did was crawl under the building, in the mud, to wrap insulation around the pipes," Treuer said.

As this recollection suggests, maintaining the historical continuity of the Woodlawn Friends community and the building that shelters it is a practical expression of spirituality. This means that the meeting house's location within the grounds of Fort Belvoir has created concern for many Friends.

"It's hard because here we are, a peace activist church, sitting on the edge—surrounded by—a military base," said Spitzer. "We have a lot of members who feel very strongly about peace." In response to Sept. 11, a military checkpoint was built at the intersection with Route 1 that controlled access to the meeting house as well as to the base. Some Friends refused to pass through this entrance because of their pacifist beliefs. Belvoir worked with the Meeting to build an alternate drive. On Sunday mornings, the army allows Friends to pass through without entering the checkpoint.

Jim Nations, clerk of the Trustees Committee (which is comparable to a non-profit organization's board of directors) says that he is appreciative of Fort Belvoir for giving them Sunday access and letting them tap into the fort's water system.

Although Spitzer says some soldiers do attend the meeting, many people on the base, as well as in the wider community, know little or nothing about the small white building tucked in among the trees near Woodlawn Gate. James Cartwright was stationed at Belvoir until he retired in 1992. "The first time I walked in here and sat down for worship I knew this was where I was meant to be." That was 12 years ago. But when he was stationed at Belvoir, "I didn't even know it was here. I drove past the building a whole lot and didn't even know what it was." He said he hopes new signs will make that more clear.

"There's been a lot of disagreement among Quakers" over their relationship with the military, Cartwright said. But Quakerism hasn't changed his perceptions of his own military service. "My perception was changing before that, which is what led me to find them." Cartwright had protested Vietnam, but was drafted. He agreed to join volun-

tarily only if they would allow him to enter the medical corps. He began as a corpsman and worked his way up to respiratory therapist, the trade he practices today.

Cartwright said the meeting has a lot of appeal for its youngest members. "We have families that come here because their kids bring them back." Children say "this is one place they could always come and feel totally accepted for themselves . . . We treat children with respect. We treat them as equals. We're on a first name basis. They call me James . . . We don't put any conditions on them, on how they look or dress or be or believe . . . It's a very warm, loving community . . . You see the teenagers interacting with the little kids. You see little kids sometimes walk into meeting and instead of sitting with their parents they sit with someone else."

Rachel Messenger brings her daughter to meeting, just as her parents brought her. She has been attending meeting "since I was two years old." She remembers when the building had pit toilets and the Friends met only once a month. "It was a lot smaller then [in the 1960's]. It's really evolved into what it is today," she said. "I find it different than the rest of the world. I find it a lot more loving, more accepting, more tolerant . . . I wanted to raise my daughter in a loving environment."

Like many American communities, the Friends of Woodlawn are confronting the gaping holes that war tears into the fabric of daily life. Tom Fox heard something in the silence that called him across the earth to bring simple acts of fellowship into a war zone. But during the Civil War, Woodlawn itself was a war zone, caught in the no-man's land between North and South.

Chalkley Gillingham, one of the meeting's founders, kept a journal during this period. During the battle of Bull Run, he wrote, "while we sat in meeting we heard the noise of war and roar of battle." Later he recorded that "we continually hear the din of drums and guns." At various times, the meeting house was commandeered as a picket for soldiers, officers' quarters and a field hospital. But throughout these disruptions, and true to his Quaker sense of practicality, Gillingham maintained the workings of the farm as best he could. May 13, 1864: "Nearly done planting corn; also very busy about the nursery and tree planting . . . our milk business changed the first of this month into an ice cream business—the [Union] hospitals [in Alexandria] have got someone else to serve them [milk]. We buy all the cream we can get in the neighborhood, say 20 to 50 gallons, and make ice cream. [We] sell it at one dollar a gallon."

Gillingham's tombstone can be found in the small graveyard behind the meeting house. The names of Union soldiers are carved into the walls and into the benches of the building itself. The Friends of Woodlawn are sitting in the silence.

A friend is moved to speak. He recalls an article in the Washington Post detailing how scientists studying the background radiation of interstellar space hypothesize that 13.7 billion years ago, in one trillionth of a second, our universe sprang into being from the size of a marble. The friend reads a quotation from the "Tao Te Ching," seeking to understand the deepest origins of science and faith. In this historic, wood-paneled room, with its lantern brackets and iron stove, it is this searching, the silence and the speaking from it, that is the strongest link to Gillingham and the meeting's past.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on following amendments to H.R. 5441 on June 6, 2006:

King of Iowa Amendment (Roll No. 223): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Kingston of Georgia Amendment (Roll Call No. 224): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was also unable to vote to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair (Roll Call No. 225). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on passage of H.R. 5441 (Roll Call No. 226). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

SUPPORT FOR THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION COMMISSION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, and its chairman Dr. Hans Blix, on the release of their major report entitled, "Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms." I urge my colleagues to consider and heed the vital recommendations put forward by Dr. Blix and the Commission. At a time when the spread of weapons of mass destruction endangers all of humanity and the international community struggles to find unity in the face of this threat, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission shows us a way forward to a WMD-free future.

As the former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Executive Chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Dr. Blix is uniquely well-qualified to speak on the issue of weapons of mass destruction, and we would do well to listen closely.

I would recommend that all of my colleagues read this important and timely report. I ask that a summary of the Report's principal recommendations be inserted into the RECORD at this point.

WEAPONS OF TERROR—FREEING THE WORLD OF NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL ARMS SYNOPSIS

Why Action Is Necessary: Nuclear, biological and chemical arms are the most inhumane of all weapons. Designed to terrify as well as destroy, they can, in the hands of either states or non-state actors, cause destruction on a vastly greater scale than any conventional weapons, and their impact is far more indiscriminate and long-lasting.

So long as any state has such weapons—especially nuclear arms—others will want them. So long as any such weapons remain in any state's arsenal, there is a high risk that they will one day be used, by design or accident. Any such use would be catastrophic.

Notwithstanding the end of the Cold War balance of terror, stocks of such weapons remain extraordinarily and alarmingly high: some 27,000 in the case of nuclear weapons, of which around 12,000 are still actively deployed.

Weapons of mass destruction cannot be uninvented. But they can be outlawed, as biological and chemical weapons already have been, and their use made unthinkable. Compliance, verification and enforcement rules can, with the requisite will, be effectively applied. And with that will, even the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is not beyond the world's reach.

Over the past decade, there has been a serious, and dangerous, loss of momentum and direction in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Treaty making and implementation have stalled and, as a new wave of proliferation has threatened, unilateral enforcement action has been increasingly advocated.

In 2005 there were two loud wake-up calls in the failure of the NPT Review Conference and in the inability of the World Summit to agree on a single line about any WMD issue. It is critical for those calls to be heeded now.

What Must Be Done: The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission makes many specific and detailed recommendations throughout its report (see Annex 1 for a consolidated list). The most important of them are summarized below.

1. Agree on general principles of action:

Disarmament and non-proliferation are best pursued through a cooperative rule-based international order, applied and enforced through effective multilateral institutions, with the UN Security Council as the ultimate global authority.

There is an urgent need to revive meaningful negotiations, through all available intergovernmental mechanisms, on the three main objectives of reducing the danger of present arsenals, preventing proliferation, and outlawing all weapons of mass destruction once and for all.

States, individually and collectively, should consistently pursue policies designed to ensure that no state feels a need to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Governments and relevant intergovernmental organizations and nongovernment actors should commence preparations for a World Summit on disarmament, non-proliferation and terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction to generate new momentum for concerted international action.

2. Reduce the danger of present arsenals: no use by states—no access by terrorists:

Secure all weapons of mass destruction and all WMD-related material and equipment from theft or other acquisition by terrorists.

Take nuclear weapons off high-alert status to reduce the risk of launching by error; make deep reductions in strategic nuclear weapons; place all non-strategic nuclear weapons in centralized storage; and withdraw all such weapons from foreign soil.

Prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, and phase out the production of highly enriched uranium.

Diminish the role of nuclear weapons by making no-first-use pledges, by giving assurances not to use them against non-nuclear-weapon states, and by not developing nuclear weapons for new tasks.

3. Prevent proliferation: no new weapon systems—no new possessors:

Prohibit any nuclear-weapon tests by bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force.

Revive the fundamental commitments of all NPT parties: the five nuclear-weapon states to negotiate towards nuclear disarmament and the non-nuclear-weapon states to refrain from developing nuclear weapons.

Recognize that countries that are not party to the NPT also have a duty to participate in the disarmament process.

Continue negotiations with Iran and North Korea to achieve their effective and verified rejection of the nuclear-weapon option, while assuring their security and acknowledging the right of all NPT parties to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Explore international arrangements for an assurance of supply of enriched uranium fuel, and for the disposal of spent fuel, to reduce incentives for national facilities and to diminish proliferation risks.

4. Work towards outlawing all weapons of mass destruction once and for all:

Accept the principle that nuclear weapons should be outlawed, as are biological and chemical weapons, and explore the political, legal, technical and procedural options for achieving this within a reasonable time.

Complete the implementation of existing regional nuclear-weapon-free zones and work actively to establish zones free of WMD in other regions, particularly and most urgently in the Middle East.

Achieve universal compliance with, and effective implementation of, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and speed up the destruction of chemical weapon stocks.

Achieve universal compliance with, and effective implementation of, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and improve cooperation between industry, scientists and governments to reinforce the ban on the development and production of biological weapons and to keep abreast of developments in biotechnology.

Prevent an arms race in space by prohibiting any stationing or use of weapons in outer space.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to extend my deepest regrets as we mourn the loss of one of our nation's most respected statesmen, Senator Lloyd Bentsen. Senator Bentsen's lifelong service to our country was marked by his sharp intellect, skillful coalition building, and deep personal integrity. As a World War II veteran, public servant, and businessman, Senator Bentsen offered strength of character and compassion to his fellow man. His tireless work on behalf of the citizens of the State of Texas and our nation has made an indelible mark on the institutions and communities he served.

Senator Bentsen began serving his country in 1942 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. After briefly serving as a private conducting intelligence work in Brazil, he became a pilot and flew combat missions from southern Italy with the 449th Bomb Group. Senator Bentsen quickly ascended the ranks of the military. At age 23, he was promoted to the rank of Major and given command of a squadron of 600 men. In 18 months of combat, he courageously flew 35 missions against highly defended targets that were crucial to the German war effort. In total, he flew 50 missions over Europe. Senator Bentsen was shot down twice during the war and received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Force's highest commendation for valor, among other decorations.

After the war, Senator Bentsen began his long and distinguished political career, returning to his native Rio Grande as a decorated veteran. In 1946, he was elected Hidalgo County judge, and two years later, at age 27, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Bentsen served the residents of Houston in the House for 8 years, and then returned to Houston to work in the private sector. After having achieved a great deal of corporate success, he decided to return to public life in 1970 as a candidate for the U.S. Senate. He won a bitter primary and went on to defeat then-Congressman George H.W. Bush for the first of four Senate terms. During his tenure in the Senate, Bentsen sought the Democratic nomination for the presidential primary in 1976, and was the vice-presidential nominee in the 1988 presidential election.

Senator Bentsen's political career was marked by his compassion towards those he served, a deep knowledge of economic policy, and a propensity to build bipartisan coalitions. As a Member of the House, he was only a handful of southern congressmen who voted against the poll tax, which was used to prevent blacks from voting. In the Senate, he attained the rank of Senate Finance Committee chairman, and quickly became one of our nation's most respected voices on tax, trade, and economic issues. Throughout his political career, Bentsen earned the reputation as being highly skilled at navigating the legislative process and crafting deals behind the scenes. As the first Treasury Secretary under the Clinton Administration in 1993, he was one of the architects of the President's deficit-reduction program. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the work and accomplishments of Senator Lloyd Bentsen. As a soldier, businessman, elected official, and statesman, Lloyd Bentsen served with honor and distinction. His life-long devotion to public service will serve as an inspiration to future generations of Americans, and his many contributions on behalf of the residents of Texas and the nation will continue to offer guidance to the institutions and communities he served.

HONORING CONGREGATION KODIMOH ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the Congregation Kodimoh of Springfield, Massachusetts as it celebrates its 90 Year Anniversary this year.

It is my honor to represent a congregation whose contributions to Springfield and its Jewish community have been so significant over the years. On this special anniversary, I include in the Congressional Record Congregation Kodimoh's complete chronological history and extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rabbi Alex and Dr. Bella Weisfogel who will be honored for their accomplishments at a dinner on June 11, 2006.

Congregation Kodimoh in Springfield, Massachusetts, is proud of its history as a prominent Orthodox synagogue, which has made important contributions to the strength and vitality of the Jewish and general communities. Kodimoh's story reflects the common immigrant's success story and parallels the growth of the city of Springfield.

Kodimoh which means "forward" or "progress" in Hebrew was founded in 1916 by a segment of the Jewish community with a spirit of optimism caught up in the success of the first generation of Jewish immigrants and the boom of Springfield as an important economic urban center. The name further suggests the desire of the founding members for the congregation to fit in to the American way of life. The Jewish community formed in Springfield primarily in the North End section of the city in the mass immigration from Eastern Europe in the last decades of the 19th century and early 20th century. When the first generation of Jewish immigrants prospered and achieved economic success, a segment desired to provide for itself a better standard of living.

The move to the beautiful new neighborhood of Forest Park began, and a synagogue was needed. The first meeting of Kodimoh took place in the home of Moses Ehrlich, the first president of the congregation. Kodimoh was founded to maintain Orthodox standards and practices in modern America. English rather than Yiddish would be the language of sermons, while the synagogue and its members would participate in civic affairs. Tradition would feel at home in a new world.

The first building was completed in 1923 on Oakland St. and an adjacent school building was built in 1937. Through the '50s, as more Jews moved to the Park, Kodimoh took its place as a prominent institution in the Jewish community and in the city. The congregation maintained traditional Jewish practice and effectively educated the new generation. The membership required more space for the burgeoning program of services and activities, and the current modern facility was built in 1963, a short distance away on Sumner Ave. While a large segment of the Jewish community and several synagogues moved to Longmeadow, an adjacent suburb, the leadership of Kodimoh decided to keep the synagogue in Forest Park.

The new building witnessed extensive growth through the '70s as Kodimoh continued to follow its mission of maintaining Orthodox Judaism, involvement in the broader Jewish community, and local affairs. As the economic opportunities in Springfield declined, the synagogue also saw many young people seek jobs elsewhere. However, Kodimoh remains a vibrant and important religious center which makes a vital contribution to the community. We have faith that Springfield will continue to strengthen itself and the synagogue will benefit.

Many important rabbis have served the congregation. Rabbi Isaac Klein continued his prominent career in Buffalo, while Rabbi Norman Lamm became the President of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Alex Weisfogel from 1959–1982 led the synagogue during the construction of the Sumner Avenue building and oversaw the congregation's growth. As Rabbi Emeritus, he has remained in the community with his wife, Dr. Bella Weisfogel. Together they continue their involvement in synagogue

and community activities. Not only did Bella support her husband's endeavors, in her own right she contributed in significant ways to the educational and social programming of the synagogue. For all of their accomplishments, Kodimoh honors Rabbi Alex and Dr. Bella Weisfogel at a dinner celebrating the 90th anniversary on June 11, 2006.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LEONARD
PERRY EDWARDS II

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues Mr. HONDA and Mr. FARR today to honor a distinguished American, Judge Leonard Perry Edwards II, who is retiring after nearly 25 years as a Judge of the Santa Clara County, California, Superior Court, and who served as Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Dependency Court from 1993 to 2005.

Judge Edwards' excellence in public service mirrors that of his father, Congressman Don Edwards. He was born in Michigan, earned his B.A. from Wesleyan University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago. Before becoming a Judge he registered black voters in Mississippi during the Civil Rights movement, served in the Peace Corps in Malaysia, taught law in Norway, served as a Public Defender and practiced law. In 1981, he was appointed Superior Court Judge of the Santa Clara County Court by Governor Jerry Brown.

Judge Edwards founded Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Kids in Common, Juvenile Court Judges of California, Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council, the Greenbook Project and the Forensic Human Services Certificate Program. He has held office in more than 25 professional organizations, and most recently served as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He has received more than 40 national, state and local awards for his excellence and service, including the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, given by the National Center for State Courts. He has published more than 40 articles and written two books, one with his wife, Inger J. Sagatun-Edwards. Judge Edwards has lectured in 43 states and eight foreign countries. His next career will be as a consultant for California's judicial system which will enable him to teach his innovative methods to judges around the State.

Judge Edwards has earned the esteem of his colleagues and the admiration of the families to whom he has devoted his career. Because of his tenacity, his creativity, his compassion and his belief in others, thousands of families are now rehabilitated and functioning well.

It is a special privilege for us to honor Judge Leonard Edwards and his extraordinary career, and we are proud to call him our friend. Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring this great American who exemplifies the best in citizenship and whose career in jurisprudence sets the gold standard for our country. As Judge Leonard Edwards retires, he has the gratitude and respect of the entire House of Representatives. He has made our community and our country stronger and better through his leadership and public service.

TRIBUTE TO BUDDY CANNON

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of one of Nashville's most respected music professionals, Buddy Cannon. Just two nights ago, Buddy was named by his peers as the Producer of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Buddy has worked with a long-list of chart-topping recording artists during his years in Nashville. Kenny Chesney, Chely Wright, Reba McEntire, John Michael Montgomery, Sara Evans and George Jones have all benefited from his work as a producer. In addition, he helped launch the careers of stars such as Shania Twain, Sammy Kershaw and Billy Ray Cyrus while a recording company executive. While his award this week honors him for his work as a producer, he is also well known and celebrated as a songwriter with songs recorded by artists from Mel Tillis to Alabama, George Strait and Vern Gosdin.

According to those who have worked with Buddy, his gifts extend beyond the world of music. Buddy is known throughout the music community for his generous spirit and his willingness to spend time with young artists who are still in search of their own sound. Kenny Chesney, honored by the ACM as Entertainer of the Year, said recently that "Back before I even had a record deal, Buddy was writing songs with me at Acuff-Rose and he gave me a lot of respect as someone trying to find their way, and he taught me a lot about respecting songs—even before he was part of my team."

Buddy Cannon's passion for music and respect for musicians is well known in Nashville and the music world. I join with so many others in congratulating Buddy on his latest achievement—being named Producer of the Year. But I also join with so many others in thanking Buddy for his many important contributions to the global music community and to my hometown of Nashville.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for votes on June 6, 2006, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes numbered 223, 224, 225, and 226.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMIE L.
ADAMS, USAF

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Jamie L. Adams on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Department of Defense and his country.

A native son of South Carolina, Jamie grew up in Greenville, just a stone's throw from my home in Travelers Rest. After graduating from Carolina High School in Greenville, he set out on a military career, heading across the state to Charleston, and enrolling in The Citadel, earning a degree in business administration and a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force in 1973. Now, some 33 years later, this highly respected Air Force acquisition professional will end his military career while serving as the chief of staff of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). DCMA is a worldwide organization of 11,000 military and civilian personnel responsible for ensuring that the supplies and materials going to our men and women in uniform are delivered on time and are of the highest quality.

As a newly commissioned officer, Jamie was assigned to the procurement office at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. It was there that his ascent to the top echelons of the Defense acquisition community began. Displaying a penchant for understanding the intricacies of Federal contracting, he blazed a career path that in the ensuing decade took him to various contracting assignments throughout the United States and saw him rise through the junior-officer ranks.

In the mid-1980s, Jamie was named chief of the contracting division of the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Bergstrom AFB, Texas, and promoted to the rank of major. While there, he earned a master's degree in business administration, an academic credential that would serve him well as he took on positions of increasing authority and responsibility within the pressure-packed realm of Air Force acquisition management. In 1999, after having been promoted to the rank of colonel, he was tapped to be the chief of contracting for the Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Illinois, a demanding job in which he led a cadre of more than 600 contracting professionals who exercised stewardship of \$1.4 billion for procurement in support of America's strategic and tactical airlift mobility network.

But all that was prelude to his capstone assignment for the past two years as DCMA chief of staff, a position that showcased his acquisition knowledge, his human-relations skills, and his results-producing leadership. With Col. Adams in the vanguard, DCMA successfully adopted the principles of performance based management, ensuring effective, outcome-centered support to its customers—principally the military services and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He consistently demonstrated a blend of technical competence and affability, reconciling divergent points of view and catalyzing the agency's pursuit of acquisition excellence, workforce re-engineering, and customer satisfaction. This past spring, in firm testament to his stature within in the Defense acquisition community, Jamie was a featured presenter at the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement-sponsored Defense Acquisition 2006 forum, where he shared his insights on contingency contracting and the management of contractors on today's battlefield—a challenge of considerable import over the past three years.

Whether he was approving base-level purchase orders, maintaining vigilance over major

systems acquisitions, or steering a large Defense agency through the white waters of change, Col. Adams served with unwavering diligence, integrity, and competence. On the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I offer my congratulations to one of South Carolina's finest sons and wish him and his wife, Sandra, well in their future pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS SWECKER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Chris Swecker, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Assistant Director for the Criminal Investigative Division and Acting Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services. On July 13, 2006, Agent Swecker will be retiring from the FBI. His years of service to America have been invaluable, and he will be missed.

Assistant Director Chris Swecker has served in the FBI since June 13, 1982. In his early years in the Bureau, he served as a special agent in Charlotte, North Carolina and in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Later, he served as a supervisor in the Civil Litigation Unit, Legal Council Division, at FBI Headquarters, as acting Special Agent in charge in Miami and Houston, and as an Inspector with the Inspection Division. He later returned back to Charlotte, North Carolina, to serve as Special Agent in Charge from 1999 to 2004. In 2004, he was promoted to Assistant Director for the Criminal Investigative Division. He has also been serving as Acting Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services since February of 2006.

Chris has served our country in all these different roles with honor and distinction. His work has made America a safer place. During his time in the FBI, he dismantled a Hezbollah terror cell in Charlotte, served as the commander of FBI operations in Iraq, and captured the top 10 fugitive Eric Rudolph. In addition, he has helped streamline and upgrade the criminal investigation divisions in the FBI so that they are more efficient and effective. He has fought public corruption, violent gangs, has protected America's children, and has even formed special child abduction response teams.

Chris has accomplished all this, while being a loving husband and a father to three daughters. I know I speak for everyone back home when I say thank you Chris, for all your hard work. We are safer because of you. Congratulations on your retirement, and best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE MCKOWN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louise McKown of Oak Ridge, Ten-

nessee, who was recently recognized here in Washington by the American Bar Association. She received the Paul G. Hearne Award for dedicating her personal and professional life to improving the lives of people with disabilities in her community.

Thirteen years ago when she began to have trouble walking, Ms. McKown was diagnosed with a rare, degenerative neurological condition. It has grown increasingly worse over time and severely restricted her mobility, but anyone who knows her will tell you nothing can hold this very special woman back.

Paul G. Hearne, for whom the award was named, was born with a connective tissue disorder that limited his growth and restricted his movement. But with hard work and determination, he fought through it and created opportunities for himself and others. Like Hearne, Ms. McKown's life is marked by similar achievements despite daunting physical setbacks.

Since 1996, she has worked at the East Tennessee Technology Access Center in Knoxville as their public awareness coordinator and systems change advocate and analyst. The Access Center is the region's only nonprofit agency that helps people with disabilities gain knowledge of assistive technology. It serves people with disabilities in 24 counties—helping them learn, work, play, and lead more productive, independent lives.

A tireless spokesperson for the rights of people with disabilities—whether they were born with a disability or became disabled through an accident, illness or old age—Ms. McKown has fought for their rights to live with dignity and choice. Her achievements on the behalf of the disabled are too numerous to list, but several deserve mention here on the House floor.

In Anderson County, where she lives, she has served on the County Commissioner's Americans with Disabilities Act Oversight committee since its inception in 1995 and now serves as its chairwoman. Ms. McKown has also provided her expertise to the Tennessee Disability Coalition, the lead agency for 35 disability-related organizations statewide. Through her work with the Coalition's Project Vote, Ms. McKown helped drive improvements to polling stations that increased voting access for disabled citizens of Anderson and Knox Counties.

Ms. McKown's energy and caring touch reached from Anderson County across the State of Tennessee. Because of her involvement with the Coalition, when the State rewrote the code governing the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in 1999, she was asked to be one of five independent reviewers of the final draft. Her recommendation that group homes across the State for people with developmental disabilities should be less crowded was accepted. Now instead of eight people, they are only permitted to house half that many, greatly improving the quality of life for these physically challenged Americans.

Ms. McKown's life is an example for other Americans, showing that nothing and no one can hold you back if you put your mind to achieving what you want. In the words of her friends, she is truly a woman on a mission and I am proud to stand here on her behalf today.

BEULAH SPATZ

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Beulah Spatz for her 70 years of service to her employer, Campbell's Fitting Company of Boyertown, Pennsylvania. Beulah began with the company, then called Campbell Nipple works, in 1936 with a high school degree and a passion for math and accounting.

Beulah began her career as a receptionist and clerk for the owner, Mr. Louis Campbell. In 1939, Beulah's career dream came true when Mr. Campbell elevated her to the position of controller.

In 1949, Mr. Campbell sold the company to Mr. Frederick Paff, who changed the company's name to Campbell Manufacturing Company and, with this son Thomas D. Paff, expanded and improved business operations and opportunities. Today, under the leadership of Thomas J. Paff, Campbell is a leader in the industry both nationally and internationally.

Beulah has steadfastly stayed with the company through name and ownership changes. In the years she worked at Campbell, she's gone from using a typewriter to main frames to the modern personal computer. Beulah has been the company's foundation and her colleagues remark that she always knew where every penny was coming from and being spent.

Beulah is now looking forward to spending her hard-earned retirement with her daughter Suzie. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Beulah Spatz for her exemplary record of service and dedication to the company, its management and employees. And I wish to extend to her this institution's best wishes for health and happiness in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING THE BUSINESS AND
CIVIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF
PASQUALE T. DEON, SR.

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Pasquale (Pat) T. Deon, Sr. a constituent in my district who will be honored tomorrow at the 2006 annual scholarship luncheon at the Justinian Society of Philadelphia for his contributions to the business community in the Philadelphia region and the community of Bucks County, Pennsylvania where he lives.

Since 1935, the Justinian Society has served as the premier legal organization in the Philadelphia area for Americans of Italian ancestry. Comprised of attorneys, judges and law students, the society has directed itself to maintaining the honor of our legal system and the high ethical standards that distinguish its practice in our society. The Justinian Society accomplishes its mission by promoting continuing legal education programs, offering scholarships to Italian American law students and by promoting civic engagement by the legal community.

Pat Deon is a respected member of the Bucks County community. A successful businessman and entrepreneur, Pat has become a leader in his region, serving on numerous local and statewide boards and commissions. Since 1995, Pat Deon has been a volunteer member of the Board of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and has served as Board Chair since 1999. Since being named chairman of SEPTA, Pat Deon has transformed this \$3 billion public transportation asset from an organization wracked by inefficiency to a model of progress and competence.

With SEPTA well in hand, Pat turned his attention to our highways in 2002 and was appointed to a four-year term as a member of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Besides his public works, Pat Deon is also actively involved in community service. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Temple Lower Bucks Hospital, board member of the Bucks County Community College Foundation, and the Bucks County Enterprise Zone.

In addition to these endeavors, both Pat and his wife Carlene are strong local supporters of the Special Olympics, the American Red Cross and Race for a Cure. His work with the Special Olympics alone has allowed a delegation of 116 athletes and coaches to attend the first ever USA National Games in Iowa.

For many, this would be enough, but Pat has also excelled in business. Pat Deon has extensive residential and commercial real estate developments in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, and construction services in the Northeast region. He is also the owner of WBCB-AM radio in Bucks County and a successful restaurateur through his ownership of the Temperance House Restaurant and Inn located in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

I can think of no better person deserving the honor of the Justinian Society as Pat Deon. His success is a clear example that the American Dream is indeed alive and well. In addition to serving as a model of success, Pat Deon is also an example of modesty. He never searches for the spotlight, never craves fanfare or publicity for his good works. I am proud to represent him in Congress, and I am proud to acknowledge him today.

HONORING MRS. ELIZABETH R.
RUSIN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize Mrs. Elizabeth R. Rusin of Chicago. Mrs. Rusin will be retiring after four decades as an educator and administrator with the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Mrs. Rusin grew up at Maryville Academy in Chicago where she graduated high school. After attending 1 year at Clark College in Dubuque, Iowa, she left college to raise a family. She later returned to college to earn a bachelor of arts in speech therapy and education at Mundelein College in Chicago.

In 1971, Mrs. Rusin taught at St. Viator School in Chicago, where she served as assistant principal from 1974 to 1979, when she

left to attend Northern Illinois University, where she earned a master's degree in educational administration. From September 1980 to June 1988, Mrs. Rusin served as principal of St. Francis of Assisi School in Chicago, where she met her husband, Ben Rusin, who was actively involved in the parish. In 1989, Mrs. Rusin returned to the classroom to teach junior high school science for 2 years at St. Edward School in Chicago.

In 1991, Mrs. Rusin came to St. Josaphat School in Chicago, where she has served as principal for the past 15 years. When Mrs. Rusin began her tenure, St. Josaphat had 85 students and was on the brink of closing. Today, St. Josaphat is flourishing with over 250 students. Through a groundbreaking program with DePaul University, Mrs. Rusin has brought new learning methods to St. Josaphat. Mrs. Rusin and Dr. Akihiko Takahashi joined forces to train St. Josaphat teachers, as well as DePaul student teachers, in the methods of learning and teaching utilized in Japanese schools.

During Mrs. Rusin's time as principal of St. Josaphat, the school has been widely recognized throughout the Archdiocese and the city of Chicago as one of the premiere educational facilities for pre-school through 8th grade. Mrs. Rusin was recently awarded the Sheffield Star Award, presented each year to two individuals who bring distinction and leadership to their profession and make the Sheffield Neighborhood a multi-faceted and desirable place to live.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Rusin, St. Josaphat continues to achieve its mission to educate and challenge its students to see beyond themselves and go beyond the familiar so that they may lead responsible, fulfilling lives. Mrs. Rusin has been devoted to preparing her students for academic excellence in their continuing educations.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a deeply grateful community and with enormous appreciation for decades of dedicated service to students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends, I thank Mrs. Elizabeth Rusin for her extraordinary leadership and selfless commitment to learning and to the city of Chicago. Mrs. Rusin left a mark on each school she was a part of and will not be forgotten. We will remember her countless contributions, and wish her continued success in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER S. MEIER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a distinguished American, Roger S. Meier, who died on June 5, 2006, at the age of 80.

Mr. Meier, a fourth-generation Oregonian who lived most of his life in Portland, was a descendant of the founders of the Meier & Frank Company. He graduated from Yale University and married Laura Schwartz of New York City in 1952. He worked at Meier & Frank as a Director and Vice-President until the store was sold to the May Company in 1965.

Mr. Meier was the President and Chief Executive Officer of AMCO, Inc., a privately

owned investment company for more than 30 years. The Governor of Oregon appointed him to the Public Employees' Retirement Board in 1970, and he also served through appointment on the Oregon Investment Council from 1973 to 1986 as Chairman. The Oregonian observed that unpaid public service has rarely, if ever, generated such a profound financial benefit for Oregonians.

Mr. Meier served with distinction as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Portland Art Museum, and as Director of Pacific Western Bank, PacWest Bancorp, NI Industries, Fred Meyer, Inc., Key Bank of Oregon, Red Lion Inns, Key Trust Company of the Northwest, and The Acorn Family of Funds. Mr. Meier also gave generously of his time and talents through his service on the boards of the Catlin Gabel School, University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, the Oregon Historical Society and the Legacy Health Systems Retirement Trust.

Mr. Meier is survived by his wife, Laura; his daughters, Alix Goodman and Jill Garvey; his sons-in-law, Tom Goodman and Tony Garvey; and four grandchildren, Laura and Caroline Garvey, and Andrew and Reid Goodman. He is also survived by his nieces Muffie Meier, Mary Meier Ryan and Lynn Novelli, and his grand-nephew J. Allen Meier Ryan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sympathy to the entire Meier family. Roger Meier was a national treasure, who loved his community and his country and served them exceedingly well. He will always be missed and never forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ORLANDO MARIN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as New York City prepares to host the 48th Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade, a celebration of Puerto Rican culture and heritage, I would like to rise to pay tribute to Mr. Orlando Marin. A great Puerto Rican musician, Orlando continues to excite audiences with his masterful play that has earned him the title: the Last Mambo King.

Mambo was exploding in the early 50s when a young Orlando, captivated by its rhythms, developed a keen interest in Latin percussions. At the age of 16, while preparing for a career as a cartoon illustrator at New York's prestigious High School of Industrial Arts, he formed a small band. The band quickly evolved into a ten-piece orchestra and was the first of the Bronx-born Latin Dance ensembles to achieve solid commercial success, appearing in such renowned venues as New York's famed Palladium Ballroom. The youthful ensemble, appropriately nicknamed La Orquesta de la Juventud (the Orchestra of Youth), included 14 year old Eddie Palmieri on piano and 15 year old Joe Quijano on vocals, both of whom were destined to become Latin Music greats in their own right.

Orlando soon began to emerge as a Mambo star, recording "Mi Mambo" with the Plus label and "Arriba Cha Cha Cha", and "Let's Go Latin" with Fiesta Records. However, in 1958 his quick ascent to stardom was interrupted as he was drafted by the U.S. Army to patrol Ko-

rea's DMZ as part of the U.N. occupation forces. Although stationed in Korea, Orlando was determined to keep his music alive. He entered the All Army Talent Competition, winning first prize in the Pacific Command. A musical tour of Korea and Japan followed, with a trip to Washington DC for the finals, capped by a performance on The Ed Sullivan Show. "While still in uniform and stationed in California, Orlando once sat in for Tito Puente on timbales at the Hollywood Palladium. Years later he appeared with Tito at the Palladium, this time each leading his own orchestra, and dueling on timbales.

Following his military service, Orlando returned to New York and was featured at various New York dance venues, including the Limbo Lounge and the Bronx's renowned Hunts Point Palace.

Orlando's maturation as an artist became evident with the release of the albums: "Se Te Quemo La Casa" "Que Chevere" and "Esta en Algo" which included his smash hit "Aprende a Querer", hailed by his peers to be his best. However, Orlando demonstrated his true musical genius when he began to move outside of the familiar Mambo box, releasing "Out of My Mind", the first Boogaloo album ever recorded, and "Saxaphobia", which contained arrangements for five saxophones but none of the traditionally Latin trumpets.

Orlando's music is appreciated not only by the denizens of New York's traditional Latin dance venues, but also by non-Latin fans throughout the five boroughs and beyond. In 1999, the Governor of New York presented Orlando with the Bobby Capo Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication to Latin music and his fans for nearly a half century.

Perhaps what is most impressive about this remarkable musician is his willingness to devote time and energy in order to help those who are less fortunate than he. Orlando has served as an employment counselor for community based organizations, including the National Puerto Rican Forum, thereby helping countless young men and women find the road to success. In addition, he spends a great deal of his time performing for those who cannot come to see him, such as hospital patients, inmates of correctional facilities, and nursing home residents throughout the New York area.

Mr. Speaker, for his masterful play, innovative genius, and devotion to his fellow man, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Orlando Marin, the Last Mambo King.

HONORING KEVIN M. McCANN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin M. McCann of Chicago for his many years of service and dedication to education. After 32 years in elementary education, Kevin is retiring from his position as principal of Jamieson Elementary School in the 5th District's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

A lifelong Chicagoan, Kevin attended St. Patrick High School on the City's west side. He graduated in 1969 and went on to earn a degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences from DePaul University in 1973.

While earning his Masters in School Administration at DePaul, Kevin began teaching General Education at Bell Elementary School in 1974. In 1977 Kevin moved to LaSalle Language Academy, where he taught Upper Grade Mathematics. During his tenure at LaSalle, Kevin earned many distinguished awards including Teacher of the Year in 1979, the Kate Maremont Dedicated Teacher Award in 1989, and the Milken Family Foundation Illinois Distinguished Educator Award in 1990.

In 1991, Kevin moved into school administration when he was named the principal at Jamieson Elementary School. As principal of Jamieson, Kevin immediately challenged his teachers and students to help make Jamieson one of the premier schools in the Chicago Public School system. Under his leadership, Jamieson earned awards in the Academic Bowl, Athletics, Oratory, Robotics, the History Fair, the Science Fair, and the Math Competition. In 1999, Kevin qualified as a finalist for the Outstanding Leadership Award given by the Chicago Principals Association and the Chicago Public Schools.

In addition to teaching, one of Kevin's other passions has been his love for his alma mater, DePaul University, the place his father called home professionally for many years. Our educational community will continue to be served by Kevin as he begins his new job next fall at DePaul, coordinating the student teaching program.

The same year Kevin began his position as principal of Jamieson Elementary School, he married his wife, Carol. Together they are the proud parents of three daughters, Maggie, Rachel, and Bridget. Kevin's family has always been a priority in his life, and Kevin plans to spend much time with them as he begins the next phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of those Kevin has influenced throughout his career as an educator in recognizing Kevin M. McCann for his years of devotion to education and service to our community while at Jamieson School, and wish him continued happiness in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control, I was unable to cast votes on rollcall votes 211 through 222 on the evening of May 25th of this year. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted on the following rollcall votes.

On rollcall vote No. 211, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 212, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 213, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 214, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 215, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 216, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 217, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 218, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 219, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 220, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 221, I would have voted "yes"; On rollcall vote No. 222, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the 48th Annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 11, 2006 in New York City. This parade, which celebrates the heritage of the Puerto Rican people, is one of the largest outdoor events in the United States.

The first New York Puerto Rican Day parade, held on Sunday, April 12, 1958 in "El Barrio" in Manhattan, was a wonderful event in the heart of the city's Puerto Rican community.

In 1995, the overwhelming success of the parade prompted organizers to increase its size, and transform it into a national affair now known as the National Puerto Rican Day Parade. This magnificent New York institution now includes participation from delegates representing over 30 states, including Alaska and Hawaii and attracts over 3 million parade goers every year.

The great success that this parade has enjoyed over the years is a result of the tireless efforts of many individuals from all walks of life who are dedicated to preserving and celebrating Puerto Rican heritage and culture. Leading this effort is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc. a non-profit organization founded in 1995 with the mission of increasing the self-awareness and pride of the Puerto Rican people as a way of addressing issues of economic development, education, cultural recognition, and social advancement.

The parade up New York's Fifth Avenue, while certainly the most visible aspect of the celebration of the Puerto Rican people, is not the only event associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.'s activities. Each year more than 10,000 people attend a variety of award ceremonies, banquets and cultural events which not only help to highlight, but also strengthen the special relationship shared by Puerto Ricans and the City of New York. Over the years, the two have developed a symbiotic relationship—Puerto Ricans sharing a vibrant and beautiful culture that has helped turn New York into a bilingual city and the City of New York helping Puerto Ricans to flourish economically, politically and culturally. The annual parade captures the spirit of this special relationship and celebrates its success.

Mr. Speaker, as a Puerto Rican, a New Yorker, and a Member of Congress, it is an honor to participate in this national event in which thousands of individuals march along Fifth Avenue in celebration. The National Puerto Rican Day Parade is a communal cultural treasure, national in scope and impact, which unites all New Yorkers. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Puerto Rican people and to all who have worked to ensure that the upcoming parade is a success.

HONORING HIS MAJESTY KING
BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 409, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended the throne on June 9, 1946 and is the longest-serving monarch in the world.

His Majesty King Bhumibol will receive a special Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award from the United Nations Development Agency for his dedication to social justice, growth with equity, human security, democratic governance, and sustainability.

During his reign, Thailand has become a constitutional democracy in which Thai citizens enjoy the right to change their government through periodic free and fair elections held on the basis of universal suffrage.

His Majesty King Bhumibol has always enjoyed a special relationship with the United States, having been born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his father, Prince Mahidol of Songkla was studying medicine.

The United States and Thailand have enjoyed over 170 years of friendship since the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833, the first such treaty signed between the United States and any Asian country, and on December 30, 2003, President George W. Bush designated the Kingdom of Thailand as a major non-NATO ally.

Mr. Speaker, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has proudly led the people of Thailand for 60 years. I rise today to offer congratulations to His Majesty King Bhumibol and best wishes for continued health and prosperity to his Majesty and the Kingdom of Thailand as we continue the historic friendship between the Thai and American people.

RECOGNIZING DR. SAMUEL L.
SELINGER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Samuel L. Selinger for his unwavering dedication to provide access to affordable health care in the Inland Northwest. After a long and prestigious career as a heart surgeon, Dr. Selinger retired and began to volunteer his time and services at a free health clinic. There he experienced first hand the frustrations associated with caring for disadvantaged citizens and took it upon himself to find a better way to provide them with access to health care.

The effort led by Dr. Selinger contributed to the development of a program in Spokane that caters to the health care needs of the low-income population. As a result of his diligent work, in the fall of 2003, Dr. Selinger witnessed the creation of Spokane's own Project Access. Project Access is a national move-

ment of volunteer physicians that organizes free medical care to individuals that have a low income. After starting more than 10 years ago in Buncombe County, North Carolina there are now over 50 Project Access programs across the country that serve the health care needs of people who would normally be unable to obtain such care.

In addition, Dr. Selinger has made it his responsibility to educate the community's medical professionals on the struggles that low income people face in accessing quality health care. Dr. Selinger has made it a priority to help numerous physicians understand how they can be part of the solution by organizing and contributing their services to charitable medical programs for disadvantaged people.

Project Access continues to grow in the Spokane area. Because of its success, largely due to Dr. Selinger's commitment, the Spokane County Medical Society has agreed to sponsor Project Access and help expand the network of physicians in the Inland Northwest. Not only has Dr. Selinger and his tireless work been recognized by Spokane County, but it has also been recognized by distinguished community members, physicians, and private businesses. The impact of Project Access on our community would not be at the level it is today if it were not for the leadership of Dr. Samuel L. Selinger.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Dr. Samuel L. Selinger for his exceptional service to the city of Spokane, and to thank him for the role he has played in providing free or low cost health care to the disadvantaged citizens of Spokane.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, had I been in Washington yesterday, June 6, 2006, my votes on the following Rollcalls would have been as follows:

Roll No. 223, King/Campbell—"yes."

Roll No. 224, Kingston—"yes."

Roll No. 225, Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair—"yes."

Roll No. 226, On Passage—"yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF
LIGHTHOUSE POINT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the wonderful City of Lighthouse Point, Florida. I am proud to have represented the residents of this city for the 26 years I have served in Congress.

Incorporated on June 13, 1956, Lighthouse Point derived its name from its location under the beam of the famed Hillsboro Lighthouse. Armed with a petition signed by over 100 residents favoring incorporation, community leaders traveled to Tallahassee to seek approval. Story has it that 77 names on the petition

were Republicans and they were required to re-register before incorporation approval would be given by the state's Democrat leaders. All 77 agreed to re-register as Independents and incorporation of Lighthouse Point was approved.

In 1956, approximately 150 people resided in the newly incorporated area. Most of these residents had grown up in other parts of the country during the 1920's and 1930's and many had served in WWII. What had originally been farm land was now a network of canals and residential lots providing residents with waterfront living and easy access to the Intra-coastal Waterway and the ocean beyond. It was an idyllic place to make a new life for yourself and your family. In 1956, Dwight Eisenhower was elected President and Leroy Collins was elected Governor of Florida, both for second terms, a first class postage stamp was three cents and Elvis Presley's "Don't Be Cruel" was the number one record.

Today, Lighthouse Point is a thriving community of approximately 10,767 residents. It has moved from services provided by volunteers to a full service city with its own police, fire, and public works departments. Although it has grown dramatically, as has all of South Florida, it has retained its feeling of a small town community. Eighteen miles of canals, parks and numerous recreational activities and special annual events such as Keeper Days and Lighthouse "A" Glow all contribute to the hometown feel of Lighthouse Point. It continues to maintain its heritage and its standard of striving to be the best place to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, Lighthouse Point is a jewel in the landscape of South Florida. I am honored to represent the city and her residents in the U.S. House of Representatives. I am also pleased to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Lighthouse Point on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE COMMISSION (SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ECONOMY)

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, few are willing to admit—much less discuss—the looming financial crisis facing our country.

However, the longer we put off fixing the problem, the worse the medicine will be and the greater the number of Americans who will be hurt. We need to begin this conversation with the American people today.

That is why I am introducing legislation to establish a national commission that will put everything—entitlement benefits and all other federal programs as well as our tax policies—on the table and require Congress to vote up or down on its recommendations in their entirety, similar to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) first created by former Rep. Dick Armey in 1988.

This commission would be called the SAFE Commission, to secure America's future economy.

Many will say the problem is too big to be fixed. Some will view the proposal as too risky, particularly in an election year. Others

will say it is an abdication of congressional responsibility.

My response to such comments is that the problem is so great we can no longer look for excuses not to act. Nothing, I believe, is too big to undertake.

Abraham Lincoln, one of our Nation's greatest presidents, once said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

Yet that is precisely what we have been doing—avoiding our responsibility to future generations of Americans by passing on a broken system in the form of unfunded Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid obligations. And it's been both sides of the aisle and in both Republican and Democrat administrations.

The growing gap between money that has been promised to future generations in various entitlement programs and that which is available to pay these promised benefits is staggering.

To meet the government's current unfunded promises for future spending, every American—including multimillionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett—would have to hand over 90 percent of their personal net worth in today's dollars. This is unacceptable.

I deeply believe there is a moral component that goes to the heart of who we are as Americans. By that I mean, I wonder if we have lost the national will to make tough decisions that may require sacrifice? Moreover, have we lost the political courage to reject the partisan and special interest demands and do what is best for our country?

If we remember the legacy we have inherited, the debt we owe to previous generations—our grandparents and our parents and the sacrifices they made to make our country what it is today—we all will be moved to do our duty.

The SAFE commission should be embraced by both sides of the aisle. I am open to suggestions about the legislation from members of both parties. This is a national issue; not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue.

A month ago I took a trip to Antietam National Battlefield. As I walked along "Bloody Lane," the site of one of the most vicious battles of the Civil War, I was struck by how many individuals made the ultimate sacrifice.

September 18, 1862 was the bloodiest single day in American history. There were more than 23,000 casualties, nine times as many Americans killed or wounded than in World War II's D-Day on June 6, 1944. More soldiers were killed and wounded at the Battle of Antietam than the deaths of all Americans in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and Spanish-American War combined.

I also recently visited the site of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River in anticipation of the Battle of Trenton. Washington was down to only 3,000 soldiers and the war was almost lost. Yet, with great courage—and sacrifice—Washington and his forces were successful in changing the direction of the American Revolution.

And with Memorial Day's recent passing, I think of the tremendous sacrifice being made by the thousands of men and women serving today not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, but around the globe. Their families here at home are also making great sacrifices.

These examples of sacrifice for country are what led me to ask just what are we passing on to those who are coming after us?

In two short years, the baby boom generation will begin trickling into retirement. Five years later, that trickle will become a flood that within five more years will become a tsunami that will begin to wreak havoc on our Social Security and Medicare systems.

As we tragically learned the lesson of Katrina in New Orleans, the best time to deal with a damaged flood wall is before the rains begin. Make no mistake; the levies that are our country's entitlement systems can only be plugged for so long. Without major repair and a long-term fix, we are facing a financial disaster like never before.

There is near unanimous agreement by all who have looked at this issue: Social Security and Medicare are amassing huge deficits and are ill-prepared for the coming flood of new baby boom retirees.

When our retirement security programs like Social Security and Medicare were established, the ratio of workers supporting each retiree was more than 10 times the number supporting retirees today. In 1945, there were 42 workers for each retiree. Last year, the ratio dropped to 3 workers for each retiree and is expected to drop to just 2 workers for each retiree by 2030.

The 2006 Social Security Trustees Report paints a grim picture with projections that the Social Security Trust Funds will begin running cash flow deficits in 2017 and be exhausted in 2040—one year sooner than last year's projection. That means that by the year 2040, the projected federal income will only be sufficient to pay 74 percent of scheduled benefits.

Perhaps even more troubling than the Social Security projections are those for Medicare.

By 2010, the trust fund expenditures are projected to exceed annual income from all sources and the reserves will be depleted by 2018, 12 short years from now. According to the trustees, "Medicare's financial outlook has deteriorated dramatically over the past five years and is now much worse than Social Security's."

As a father of five and grandfather of 11—soon to be 12—the challenge posed by the pending retirement of baby boomers strikes me as much more than a routine policy discussion.

Without action, just what kind of future are we leaving to our children and grandchildren?

My youngest grandchild is just two months old. By the time she is 15 years old, 29 cents out of every dollar paid in income taxes will be required to cover the needs of Social Security and Medicare to pay for my retirement. That's not including payroll taxes of almost 15 percent.

By the time she completes her undergraduate degree, more than 45 cents out of every dollar of income taxes then will be needed to cover the shortfall of Social Security and Medicare, rising to 62 cents out of every dollar if she decides to get her doctorate 10 years later. Again, this is on top of payroll taxes.

Sadly, before she retires—and looks into the eyes of her own grandchildren—retired baby boomers will be consuming 88 percent of every income tax dollar. With the baby boomers consuming so much, there will be little money left to meet the needs and challenges of her generation. Not only is this unacceptable, it raises serious moral questions. Is it right for one generation to live very well knowing that its debts will be left to be paid for by their children and grandchildren?

Before he left the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan gave a speech in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he echoed the significance of the coming baby boom retirement on our budget and economy. In stark language, he noted that because of lower fertility rates and longer life expectancies, we are faced with dramatic elderly dependency ratios that will pose "substantial challenges to Social Security," which he noted is already in "chronic deficit."

This coming crisis demands our immediate attention. While there is never a convenient time to make hard decisions, the longer we wait, the more dramatic the required remedy will be.

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), balancing the budget in 2040 necessitates one of two alternatives: cutting total federal spending by 60 percent or raising federal taxes by two and half times today's level.

Either of these options would devastate our economy. But if we can summon the resolve to begin these difficult conversations now—and make some hard choices on the front end—we can change our current course.

Basic economics underscore the dangers inherent in our current national trends. America is living on borrowed dollars and borrowed time. U.S. spending is outpacing income growth and personal savings rates have dropped to negative 1.3 percent in the first quarter, meaning that U.S. consumers are spending more than 100 percent of their monthly after-tax income. In spite of this, our economy has remained strong, in large part because other countries have been willing to buy our debt. In fact, we have benefitted greatly from low long-term interest rates that have been kept low largely because of continued foreign purchases of our national debt. As our fiscal deficit grows, we can finance it in one of three ways: through foreign-held debt, through reduced domestic spending, or by selling U.S. goods abroad. In 2004, foreigners bought \$900 billion of U.S. long-term bonds. I am told that we now need more than \$2.6 billion a day of capital inflows to fund our savings shortfall.

As our fiscal deficit balloons, our current account deficit is projected to hit historically unprecedented highs, and our country's net investment position abroad is eroding rapidly.

While the Asian Central Banks and petrodollar countries like those in the Middle East have no doubt contributed to our country's growth (the housing boom and the ability of U.S. consumers to spend), the purchase of U.S. securities by foreigners has, at the same time, enabled us to live way beyond our means.

This makes our country—and our children and grandchildren—much more vulnerable in the future. Will a geopolitical dispute with a major oil exporter cause it to stop funding our deficit, resulting in a sharp drop in the dollar, a spike in interest rates and a market meltdown?

If foreigners lose faith in the U.S. and our ability to put our own fiscal house in order, their investment decisions could send shock waves through our financial markets and even result in a collapse of U.S. real estate prices.

Our children and grandchildren deserve a future that will allow them to respond to the challenges of their generation.

Who could have predicted, even 10 years ago, that today our Nation would be engaged in a global war on terror.

Each generation faces its own international threats, and we have an obligation to ensure that future generations have the flexibility to respond to the challenges of their time.

In addition to international considerations there are domestic factors. Getting our financial house in order will allow us to prioritize spending in areas such as cutting edge medical research for cancer, Alzheimer's and autism, and for education, particularly in mathematics and science, which are critically important to America's remaining the world's leader in innovation and technology.

It is with the hope of building consensus on this very difficult issue that I am introducing legislation to establish a bipartisan commission charged with evaluating the scope of our fiscal problem and recommending tangible solutions. One of the most critical responsibilities of this panel will be explaining the crisis we face and listening to the American people about how to get the country back on sound financial footing. It will also develop a strategic plan for the future. It will look beyond the Beltway for solutions, holding at least 12 town meetings—one in each of the Nation's Federal Reserve districts—over the span of six months in order to hear directly from the American people.

The SAFE commission will be comprised of 15 voting members, three of which will be appointed by the president, three by the Senate Majority Leader, three by the Senate Minority Leader, three by the Speaker of the House, and three by the House Minority Leader. The director of the Congressional Budget Office and the Comptroller General of the United States will be appointed as non-voting ex-officio members of the commission to lend their expertise. The president will have the ability to appoint the chair from among the 15 voting members.

To be successful, I believe the commission must include men and women who are more committed to their country than they are to their political party and committed to working in a bipartisan manner. Names such as former U.S. Treasury secretaries James Baker and Robert Rubin, former Federal Reserve Chairmen Alan Greenspan and Paul Volker, former Senators Phil Gramm and Bob Kerrey and former Congressmen John Kasich and Charlie Stenholm come to mind. Leading economists from both the public and private sectors must also be included on the panel. Bipartisanship is critical to the commission's success.

I have heard criticism that such weighty decisions on the Nation's financial future are the responsibility of Congress. Because of the ever-increasing politically charged atmosphere that has come to characterize dealings in our capital city, I fear that partisan rather than national interest has become the order of the day. Congress is paralyzed. Our political system is polarized. Many now only think about "red" or "blue" ideology, which has led to paralysis and disregard of the common good. The American people deserve an honest assessment about the federal government's future saving's account and checkbook—a discussion driven not by politics, but by statesmanship and one which elevates the Nation's sights.

Working together to find common ground, this group will comprehensively review entitlement

benefits, patterns in savings and insurance for retirement, tax policies and the long-term implications of increasing foreign ownership of the U.S. Treasury.

Everything must be on the table. As a fiscal conservative, I believe that the economy grows when people keep more of their hard-earned money, and my voting record reflects this belief. But given the enormity of the challenge, the commission needs to be able to look at every component of our fiscal policy to fairly assess where we stand and how we can best move toward a sound fiscal future. In looking at revenues, I believe any changes in the tax code must help simplify the system and stimulate increased economic growth and thereby tax revenue. The late William Simon, who served as Treasury secretary under presidents Nixon and Ford, believed "the United States should have a tax system, which looks like someone designed it on purpose."

The IRS estimates Americans spend 6.6 billion hours per year filling out tax forms—including 1.6 billion hours on the 1040 form alone and nearly \$200 billion on tax compliance. That amounts to 20 cents of compliance cost for every dollar collected by the tax system.

Shouldn't we have a system that people understand? One that encourages faster growth in business formation, jobs, family income and tax revenue? A simplified tax code also could help increase the personal savings rate, which went negative for the first time since the Great Depression earlier this year.

After spending six months conducting town meetings around the country to determine the scope of the problem and consider solutions, the commission will present to Congress a report describing the long-term fiscal problems, public suggestions and views expressed during the town meetings and policy options available to ensure federal programs and entitlements are available for future generations.

With a bipartisan two-thirds majority vote, the commission will send to Congress a legislative package to implement the commission recommendations no later than 60 days after the interim report. The administration and Congress will have 60 additional days to develop actuarially equivalent proposals to achieve the same cost savings. Essentially, no later than 10 months from the organization of the commission, Congress would be required to vote—up or down—on each proposal.

For example, if the interim report is delivered on January 1, then the commission's legislative package would be due by March 1 and any alternative developed by Congress or the Administration would have to be presented by May 1.

All proposals must include a 50-year CBO score in addition to disclosing any impact on future federal liabilities. If more than one proposal receives a majority, the one garnering the greatest number of votes would prevail.

I have put in the legislation procedures for expedited consideration of the commission's legislation to ensure that the Congress acts. I do not want this to simply be another blue-ribbon commission whose findings end up on a bookshelf somewhere only to collect dust and never be acted upon.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this legislation.

I also welcome a forthright national dialogue. Only by working together in a truly bipartisan manner will we be able to secure America's future economy.

I believe most Americans will welcome it as well, especially considering we all want what is best for our children and grandchildren.

I will close with the cautionary words of George Washington's 1796 farewell address:

"We should avoid ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden of which we ourselves ought to bear."

CALL TO ACTION FOR THE
CHILDREN OF KATRINA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD "Witness for Justice #269" entitled Invisible People, published May 22, 2006 by the United Church of Christ of Cleveland, Ohio. The statement, one of a series of observations on the state of justice in the U.S. today, eloquently written by Carl P. Wallace, Executive Associate of this Church on 700 Prospect Ave. in Cleveland, criticizes the ineffectiveness of the current administration in contending with the devastating impacts of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Wallace warns us, "Right before our eyes we are losing our children" as they continue to remain invisible in the eyes of the relief and aid workers in the Gulf Coast. Katrina orphaned thousands of children whose ordeal is prolonged due to inadequate health care, public education and housing services. "One in three sheltered children in the Gulf Coast region has some type of chronic illness." Almost none of them have health care coverage. Highlighting the fact that one-fourth to one-fifth of the children in America are growing up in poverty, Mr. Wallace suggests, and I concur, that the 1.9 trillion dollars of tax cuts would be better employed to provide health care for 9 million uninsured children and mitigate child poverty.

I also join Mr. Wallace in questioning the reason behind this invisibility of our children. Are they invisible because "they do not vote, lobby or pay taxes?" Is it acceptable to allow these children to be neglected, even abused? What happened to compassion and human kindness? Mr. Wallace ends on the hopeful note that through prayer and action "the invisible can be made visible." The Children's Defense fund has already released a "Call to Action for Katrina's Children," that focuses on providing immediate health and health services and quality public education, as well as, creating an enduring support base for such endeavors.

I join Mr. Wallace in all his concerns and call upon my colleagues in the Congress to alleviate the suffering of children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

[From Witness for Justice #269,

May 22, 2006.]

INVISIBLE PEOPLE

(By Carl P. Wallace)

Ever wonder what it would be like to be invisible? You could go around and nobody would see you. Nobody would know you existed. Do you remember playing hide and seek? Wow. If you were invisible you could always win the game because no one would

be able to find you. "Ollie Ollie ump fee. I'm coming to find you." What a game. Those who could hide the best always won the game. It was great being invisible until you discovered that if no one cared to find you, you really did not win. Regrettably, there is a similar game being played in the Gulf Coast. Our children appear to be invisible. But it is no game. It is a situation of life and death. And right before our eyes we are witnessing the most devastating reality of what it means to be invisible in the richest country in the world. Right before our eyes we are losing our children.

We are literally losing our children due to the lack of adequate health care, public education and housing. There are over 125,000 displaced families in the Gulf Coast. In a Red Cross shelter north of Birmingham, Alabama there are over 2,000 children who have lost their parents. In a FEMA trailer park outside of Baton Rouge 700 of the 1,670 residents are children. In the richest nation in the world one-fifth to one-fourth of our children are growing up in poverty. Of the 1.9 trillion dollars of tax cuts, which will give the richest 1 percent of all tax payers \$57 billion each year, we could instead provide health care for all 9 million uninsured children and end child poverty in America. Wow! Centuries ago Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do nothing to hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14). Maybe we missed Jesus' request.

Sometimes I wonder where our priorities are. A wise man once said: "Where your heart is there also is your treasure." Are our children our treasure? It is extremely painful to note that one-in-three sheltered children in the Gulf Coast region has some type of chronic illness. Are our children our treasure? In the Gulf Coast region one-half of the children who had some level of health coverage do not have any now. Are our children our treasure? Did the need for health care coverage just disappear? Have a heart. I guess invisible people don't need health care.

Let's think about it. Perhaps our children are invisible because they do not vote, lobby or pay taxes. Let's think about another point. Can you imagine what it must be like to be undocumented and in this situation? Is there such a thing as double invisibility?

The Children's Defense fund released a "Call to Action for Katrina's Children." It calls in part for: immediate emergency mental health and health services for children and their families; quality public education and after-school and summer education; as much attention focused on constructing levees of support for strong health care, family and public education as they will for the construction of the physical levees that will hold back the water in future storms; and, prayer for Katrina children and families and for leaders who work for justice. Prayer and action will make a difference. Our children must be made visible.

Maybe, just maybe, if we lift our voices to make their needs known our children will not disappear right before our eyes. Maybe, just maybe if we take action we will not lose the least of these. Maybe, just maybe we will find our treasure. The invisible can be made visible.

"Ollie, Ollie ump fee. We're coming to find you!"

URGING TOLERANCE AND
PEACEFUL CHANGE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express concern about the sharp rise in hate crimes and racial intolerance, and to urge acceptance in our Nation.

A recent report from the Southern Poverty Law Center stated that there were 803 hate groups in the USA last year. This is up from 762 in 2004 and is a 33 percent increase since 2000. The Center's report stated the national debate that has focused on immigration has been "the single most important factor" in spurring activity among hate groups and has given them "an issue with real resonance."

Hundreds of thousands of people marched peacefully throughout the Nation to give a voice for immigrants in this country. Half a million in Los Angeles, 300,000 people in Chicago, 40,000 in Washington, DC, and 20,000 in Milwaukee and Phoenix marched to defend the hopes and dreams of immigrant families. Nearly 40,000 students across Southern California, including students at several schools in my district, marched for the rights of immigrants.

Those who marched did so peacefully. I encourage everyone to remember the great history of change driven by nonviolent action, which is such a vibrant part of our Nation's fabric. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but I urge that such expression be done in a peaceful and non-threatening manner.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED
STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support putting a stop to the Federal Aviation Administration's abusive and dishonest tactics in negotiating a new contract with the nation's air traffic controllers.

Under an unprecedented interpretation of current law, the FAA is claiming the ability to declare an impasse in negotiations and impose its terms. But such a unilateral action is patently wrong and unfair. It's long past time for Congress to return the parties to an equal footing and get them back to the negotiating table.

I hope that my vote for H.R. 5449 will send a strong message. The agency ought to cease misrepresenting controllers' salaries. If, as the FAA claims, salaries are truly exorbitant, then the agency shouldn't hesitate to enter binding arbitration. The FAA's desire to avoid arbitration speaks volumes about the weakness of its arguments.

Working under incredibly stressful and difficult conditions, air traffic controllers protect the safety of millions of Americans. I hope the FAA will follow Congress' lead in affording them the respect they deserve.

CONGRATULATING ALBERT PUJOLS ON BEING NAMED THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE 2005 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SEASON

SPEECH OF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 626 introduced by my distinguished colleague from Missouri. This resolution will recognize the efforts and achievements of the 2005 National League Most Valuable Player, the legendary St. Louis Cardinals infielder, Albert Pujols.

The professional career and life pursuits of Albert Pujols exemplify nothing short of perseverance, skill, and integrity. His statistics for the first 5 years of his career rank amongst the best in baseball history with a .332 career batting average, 201 home runs and 621 RBI's. Pujols is distinguished as being the only player to have a batting average higher than .300—and to have hit over 30 home runs—and to have driven in over 100 runs in each of his first 5 seasons. He was recipient of the 2001 Rookie of the Year Award for the National League, 2003 National League batting champion, and the Most Valuable Player of the 2004 National League Championship Series. Pujols throughout his athletic career has demonstrated the highest level of sportsmanship and showmanship—earning him the Most Valuable Player of the 2005 National League Championship Series.

In an exceptional 2005 campaign Pujols established career highs in walks and stolen bases. With 41 home runs and 16 stolen bases, he became just the second Cardinal to finish with at least 40 home runs and 15 stolen bases in a single season, after Rogers Hornsby in 1922. Pujols finished second in the National League with a .330 batting average—hitting his 200th career homer along with a grand slam. Additionally, but not understated, Pujols finished with 117 RBI's, 97 walks, and a career low 38 doubles caused by nagging injuries.

Cardinals' fans were given even more ammunition to celebrate in 2005, because Albert Pujols' Most Valuable Player recognition marks the first time that the Cardinals have had both a Most Valuable Player and Cy Young award winner-pitcher, Chris Carpenter in the same year.

Pujols' characteristics and accomplishments are not limited to his accolades on the field. Off the field Pujols and his wife, Deidre, have three children: Isabella, A.J. Alberto Jr., and their newest addition Sophia. Both Pujols and his wife are generous and active supporters of community issues and in 2005 established the Pujols Family Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to the "love, care and development of people with Down Syndrome and also reaches out to impoverished families in the Dominican Republic."

Recently Pujols became the third fastest player in major league history to reach 25 home runs in a season and was on pace to hit a record breaking 82 home runs—before an oblique injury—which would have surpassed the single-season home run record of 73 home runs held by Barry Bonds.

Albert Pujols has become a role model and an inspiration to his fans, and others, through his many outstanding achievements. I congratulate him on his 2005 successes both on and off the field, and we all wish him a speedy recovery and a quick return from his present injuries. He is truly a modern American hero and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING DR. ALLAN ROSENFIELD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Allan Rosenfield on his 20th anniversary as Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

As Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health and professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Rosenfield is a true giant in the fields of population, reproductive rights, health policy and human rights.

Throughout his career, he has fought against the global gag rule; worked around the world on issues of family planning and maternal and children's health, and been recognized as a pioneer for his work on maternal mortality.

During his distinguished career, one common denominator is found throughout his work—he embraces the needs of the people least likely to receive care. Dr. Rosenfield is a man who sees need and steps up to the plate to enact change.

Dr. Rosenfield is an extraordinary man whose courage and dedication have inspired all who know him. Among his many admirable traits, there is one I am particularly happy to share with him—his strong belief in the power of humankind kind to change the world for the better.

I am honored to not only know Dr. Rosenfield, the highly respected and dedicated academic, but to call him my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the tremendous career of Dr. Allan Rosenfield and to congratulate him on his 20th year as Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health.

TRIBUTE TO TARA ELIZABETH CONNER, MISS USA 2006

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tara Elizabeth Connor, a native of Russell Springs, Kentucky, who was recently crowned Miss USA 2006.

The entire Bluegrass State celebrated on April 21, when Tara not only captured the Miss USA title but also became the first Kentuckian in the pageant's 54-year history to do so. Although she is only 20 years old, Tara showed remarkable composure during the week-long Miss USA competition, which culminated in the nationally televised pageant on NBC.

A 2004 graduate of Russell County High School, Tara was able to realize her dream of becoming Miss USA through the tried and true formula of hard work, determination and pure talent that has marked generations of accomplished Kentuckians. As the reigning Miss USA, Tara intends to use her celebrity platform to raise awareness about breast cancer. I have no doubt that she will perform her newfound responsibilities with the same mix of energy and enthusiasm that she used to capture the Miss USA title.

While millions of Americans now know her as a "beauty" queen, those that know Tara best see her for what she really is—a down-to-earth Kentucky girl who is dedicated to her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Tara Connor on her honor as Miss USA 2006. Tara has made all of Kentucky proud, and I wish her the very best as she pursues her bright future.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS H.R. 5441

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I supported the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill (H.R. 5441). The bill provided \$33.1 billion for our Nation's homeland security. These funds will help our Federal, State and local first responders react to both natural disasters and terrorist events. Yet, funds appropriated in this bill represent only a 5 percent increase from the funds we appropriated last year and do not fully meet the homeland security needs of our country. Even though I supported the bill, I believe that we can and we should do more.

I am disappointed that Ranking Member OBEY's amendment to add \$3.5 billion to the bill for transit security, border security, port security, first responders, and preparedness programs was rejected along party lines by the Homeland Security Appropriations Committee and was prohibited from being offered. These programs are essential to strong and robust hometown security. This indispensable funding would have been easily paid for by rolling back the tax savings that taxpayers with incomes over \$1 million today received under the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.

I am glad that this bill provides \$19.6 billion for border security. This represents a 9 percent increase from current funding and shows that the House takes seriously the challenges we face in securing our Nation's borders. Yet it still falls short of the request made by President Bush.

This bill also includes \$4.2 billion for port and cargo security, which is a 12 percent increase over last year. After the controversy over the D.P. World's attempt to acquire operating control of a number of U.S. ports earlier this year, Congress finally recognized the need to invest in container inspection and radiological detection. This bill also includes increased funding for grants to State and local governments to improve port security. But more needs to be done.

I was troubled that for the third year in a row DHS's rail and transit security grant program was flat funded at \$150 million. This bill

already provided \$200 million for port security and \$4.7 billion for aviation security. That is why I joined my colleagues Mr. CASTLE and Mr. LYNCH in offering an amendment to increase funding for this essential grant program by \$50 million. A clear majority of Congress agreed with us and voted to ensure that rail security received an increase in funding. I am glad to have led this effort to make a small but important step to ensuring that our nation's rail and transit providers have the resources they need to ensure the safety of millions of Americans daily.

I remain troubled that nothing has been done in this bill to significantly reform the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). I have long argued that FEMA should be removed from the Department of Homeland Security and be reestablished as an independent agency that reports directly to the President. Unfortunately, the House again has missed an opportunity to put FEMA on the road to reform. As we begin hurricane season, I cannot forget the destruction and deaths caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is time to remove FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security, where it never belonged.

Despite the lessons learned in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, this bill also cuts funding for firefighter grants by 17 percent. It also provides \$7 million less than last year for the office of Grants and Training, formerly known as the Office of Domestic Preparedness. Unbelievably, this bill cuts by 65 percent from a DHS program that helps Federal, State, local, and private organizations implement protection strategies and to provide training to State homeland security advisors.

Congress has a duty to provide the American people with the best security possible in the wake of a natural disaster or a terrorist attack. While this bill does not fully provide the funding our Federal, State and local homeland security officials have said they need, it does begin to meet their needs. I will continue to work with my colleague in Congress to ensure that we increase our Nation's investment in our homeland security.

COMMENDING THE LAWRENCE-EAGLE TRIBUNE FOR ITS SERIES ON GAMBLING

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, recently a paper in my district ran a series of columns on the problem of gambling addiction, and its effect on society, and individual families. I commend the Lawrence Eagle Tribune, its editor-in-chief, William Ketter, and the series' author, Denise Jewell, for their hard work and attention to this serious issue.

One piece in the series focused on the federal role in help for gambling addiction—and in some cases, where there is no federal role. Gambling addiction can be as destructive as addiction to alcohol or drugs, and destroys countless families every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include these articles in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and once again, offer my gratitude to the staff of the Eagle Tribune for their fine work.

[From the Lawrence Eagle Tribune,
June 4, 2006]

GAMBLING SERIES SHOWS VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISM
(By William B. Ketter)

The gravitational pull of state-sponsored gambling to stave off traditional tax increases, pay for public services and drive economic development has created a split-screen social condition in America: a lucky few people and the hapless many.

Sadly, that is the message that underlies much of the economic as well as cultural conclusions of our three-part Sunday Forum series on the causes, costs and consequences associated with the rapid spread of legal gambling across the country.

The state-by-state study—which concludes with today's installment—was conducted by the Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. News Service, the editorial arm of our parent corporation, under this editor's oversight. It was ambitious, public service journalism that encountered numerous obstacles, including uncooperative casino operators, tribal leaders and state officials.

It was a measure of reporter Denise Jewell's persistence that she got around the roadblocks and produced the first national statistical picture of the canyon between sums gambled and money spent on the prevention and treatment of problem gambling.

Nobody in state or tribal government or the gaming industry wants to say or do anything that might derail the full steam ahead gambling locomotive and the billions of dollars it generates from casinos, racinos, video poker terminals, lotteries and other sanctioned games of chance.

That's an understandable, though myopic, attitude when you consider the primary benefactors are the states that authorize, promote and regulate gambling; and the gaming companies that manage the Indian and commercial casinos. In their universe, frequent gamblers are not only prized, they are essential to success.

"It is like putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank," remarked State Sen. Susan Tucker, D-Andover in the first part of our series. Only the blood is dollars, Tucker points out, "and for the states to get their few hundred million their constituents have to lose a few billion."

A lot of those losses come from problem gamblers, many of whom are already poor and desperately in need of professional help to overcome their addiction. Yet their plight goes unlamented under the logic that gambling is a voluntary act.

Who should care? The federal and state governments. They hold responsibility for the general welfare, and compulsive gambling is a national public health issue—for the same reason drinking, smoking, and drug abuse are treated as public health matters. It is destructive, anti-social behavior. The difference is the latter receive billions for research, prevention and treatment and problem gambling gets a pittance.

In fact, Dr. Howard Shaffer of Andover, director of Harvard University's Addiction Center, identified pathological gambling as a public health problem 4 years ago in a national study, and still nothing has been done to expand federal programs to deal with it. He compares it to government inaction during the early stages of the AIDS crisis.

Ignoring the people who impulsively gamble beyond their means—causing serious financial, criminal, family and psychiatric problems—is a counterproductive approach that social experts predict will cost more over time than the money the states reap from gambling.

To grasp the wide disparity between taxes and treatment you need to reflect on the numbers.

States now receive \$21 billion in taxes from the \$136 billion spent annually on legal gambling in the United States. In turn, they spend only \$36 million on programs to assist problem gamblers. That's less than one-fifth of 1 percent of the profit.

Yes, gambling taxes help finance schools, teachers, fire engines, roads, parks and other core public services. And the infusion of revenue has allowed many states to avoid raising income, sales and property taxes. Even lower them, in some instances.

There are, however, related consequences. Evidence in our series showed problem gamblers commit forgery, credit card fraud and embezzlement at a higher rate than the general population. They also exceed the norm on bankruptcy, homelessness, divorce, substance and spousal abuse, and suicide.

No government or private agency has done a current analysis of the actual social cost of legal gambling. But the now-defunct National Gambling Impact Study Commission pegged the annual toll at \$5 billion 7 years ago. It estimated the cost to society of each addict at \$13,200 per year.

"There are undeniably many millions of problem and pathological gamblers causing severe harm to themselves, their families and many others," concluded the commission after a two-year study. Greater public understanding of this, it added, "is crucial to the health and stability of these families, their communities and many businesses."

The outlook is even darker today. More states have come to rely on gambling revenue to balance their budgets. Those without slot machines at race tracks, including Massachusetts, are talking seriously about adding them. And states without commercial or Indian casinos are seen as fertile possibilities for both.

Congress and state legislatures need to slow down the locomotive, and require that the casinos and the states appropriate serious dollars to research, prevention and treatment of problem gambling. They should also review how they're spending current public health dollars on compulsive behaviors, and appropriate some of that money to addictive gambling. It is growing faster than other social dysfunctions.

There's another thing federal lawmakers can do to help. The Americans With Disabilities Act should be amended to add compulsive gambling to the list of mental disorders covered by the law. Because it is excluded, addictive gamblers can be denied insurance payments for medical expenses and short-changed on other benefits available to alcohol and drug abusers.

Gambling taxes and money spent to deter compulsive wagering are going in opposite directions on the economic chart. There is little chance the two curves will ever cross, given the acceptance of gambling as an all-American pastime. But the CNHI News Service "Hooked on Gambling" series made a powerful case for narrowing the gap, and bringing the multiplying victims side of this split social screen into sharper focus.

By so doing, it served the purpose of public service journalism—something we need more of in this era of flash news reports that often lack context and meaning.

[From the Lawrence Eagle Tribune,
May 21, 2006]

LEGAL GAMBLING BEGETS MILLIONS OF NEGLECTED ADDICTS
(By Denise Jewell)

Twenty-year-old Bryant Northern had the world at his fingertips as a walk-on guard who won a coveted scholarship at basketball powerhouse University of Louisville. He dreamed of deadeye jump shots, March Madness, even a pro career.

But the 6-foot-tall Northern also had a hidden problem: an addiction to gambling. Caesars Indiana, the riverboat casino across the Ohio from Louisville, had been his secret hangout since high school—and also his scourge. A run of lousy luck found him short of money and in trouble with the police.

Now 23, Northern was sentenced March 6 to five years probation for trying to cash stolen checks in Kentucky to pay for his gambling habit. He still faces burglary charges in Indiana, and a possible jail term.

Northern's plight is not uncommon today in a nation where legal gambling has spread like wildfire—from three states 25 years ago to every state in the union, save Utah and Hawaii.

The promise of easy, new gambling money to build schools, pay teachers, pave roads and finance other public services has triggered an explosion of casinos, racinos (race tracks with slot machines) and lottery games. Gambling has become one of the biggest, and most politically powerful, special interests in the country.

It is no secret that America is hooked on gambling, with its payoff of more than \$20.5 billion a year to state governments. What's been overlooked is the unintended human cost: the large and growing class of people addicted to gambling and whose lives often end up in ruin.

They are called pathological bettors, and critics of gambling say they get little attention because government and the gambling industry depend on habitual players to drive revenue.

"I don't think it is conspiratorial in nature," said state Sen. Susan C. Tucker, D-Andover, who opposes the plan for racinos in Massachusetts. "It's more that most government leaders understand the truth and simply close their eyes and look away. As for the gambling industry, it is in its self-interest to keep up the gambling."

An in-depth study by Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. News Service into the cost, causes and consequences of problem gambling and what's being done about it determined that:

Legal gambling in the United States is a \$135.9 billion-per-year business, based on revenue figures provided by the states that allow it. That's close to triple the combined revenues of \$50 billion annually from box office movies, recorded music, spectator sports, and live entertainment. And it does not include popular online betting, which is still in legal limbo.

About 70 percent of gambling profits come from 30 percent of the people who gamble, according to research by professor Earl Grinols, an economist at Baylor University. Frequency, Grinols found, is a crucial characteristic of profit.

Poor people are disproportionately addicted to gambling, a study by the National Institute of Mental Health concluded. They are pulled by the lure to get rich quick but they are also the people who can least afford to lose money.

Gambling addiction has swelled the homeless rolls in America. One in five street people says he or she ended up homeless because of money problems tied to compulsive gambling, homeless-shelter officials say.

The federal government, which spends liberally on public-health studies and treatment programs for alcohol and drug addiction, has a passive approach toward problem gambling. Federal officials say it is the responsibility of the states even though addicts move freely between states and add to the cost of federal health-care programs.

Compulsive gambling is not one of the several mental diseases defined in the Americans With Disabilities Act and thus treatment for addiction does not qualify for

health-insurance coverage. Alcoholism and drug abuse are covered.

Social costs of problem gambling across the nation are estimated at a minimum of \$5 billion per year, according to a federal study commission. The annual cost to society of each pathological gambler is pegged at \$13,200.

A pittance, or \$35.5 million per year, of the gambling revenue is spent by government and the industry to educate people about the trapdoors of gambling and treat addicted gamblers. Residential rehabilitation centers for gambling addicts are rare.

No government study has documented the precise prevalence of the addiction problem in the United States. Academic studies project the figure at anywhere from 2 percent to 5 percent of adults exposed to gambling, and even higher for adolescents and teenagers.

By almost any measure, however, the numbers are in the millions and have been multiplying with the furious spread of legalized gambling from state to state since the 1980s.

Dr. Howard Shaffer of Andover, the director of Harvard Medical School's Division on Addictions, said three primary forces stimulated the growth of gambling: desire by the states to identify new sources of revenue; development of new entertainment and leisure destinations; and new technologies and forms of gambling such as electronic slot machines, video poker and multistate lotteries with large jackpots.

The most recent study of the psychoeconomics of gambling showed that between 1975 and 1999, adult gambling increased from 67 percent to 85 percent, according to Shaffer. Higher numbers were recorded in almost every demographic group, including women.

"It's everywhere, and it's only going to get worse," said Jim Chesser, a 55-year-old former Kentucky bus driver who said he's overcome his addiction and now helps others recover through Gamblers Anonymous. "That's because of the politicians. All they see is generating dollars from gambling dollars. They don't care who it hurts."

Casino companies, lottery commissions and public officials say they do care, and point to warnings and hot lines on the back of lottery tickets, TV ads that urge "responsible gaming," and Web pages that feature addiction tests and educational information to help gamblers detect problems and deal with them.

"We've done what the experts have told us to do, what seems to work for alcohol and tobacco and other addictive issues," said Judy Patterson, executive director of the American Gaming Association, the industry's lobbying arm. "But we haven't had any certainty that what we do as an industry has really met any kind of scientific test as to whether it works or not."

Advocates for problem gamblers contend even well-intentioned efforts to prevent and treat addiction suffer from lack of money and the will of state governments to do anything about it. They also criticize the cozy relationship between politicians and the gambling industry, and the millions appropriated for advertising state-sanctioned gambling.

"State government is the promoter, the regulator and the beneficiary all in one," said Tucker, the Andover lawmaker. "It's like putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank."

Congressman Frank Wolf, R-Va., also a foe of gambling, said that "20 years ago, no politician at any level wanted to be seen with the gambling-industry people. Now, we go out and hold fundraisers with them." Or, in some instances, accept largess from them, as witnessed by the admissions of Jack Abramoff, the disgraced gambling lobbyist.

Still, Tucker said, the problem of gambling addiction goes largely unnoticed and untreated.

Statistics bear her out. While 48 states have some form of legalized gambling, only 26 of them appropriate money for treatment, the CNHI News Service survey showed. And those that do commit funds spend only a tiny fraction of the revenue they get from gamblers on programs to help them. Yet most states spend millions on slick advertising and promotion campaigns to entice people to gamble.

A national gambling study financed by Congress in the late 1990s estimated that states spend about one-tenth of 1 percent of their gambling revenues on treatment and education programs for addicts.

Tucker said this is "both inadequate and wrongheaded" because the people who can't afford treatment are the same people contributing heavily to gambling revenues. That's why, she said, paying for government with gambling dollars is bad economics and bad public policy.

"For the states to get their few hundred million, their constituents have to lose a few billion," Tucker said. "It comes right from their pockets. This isn't magic money that falls from the sky."

Casinos and racinos are the fastest-growing segment of the gambling industry. And small wonder. They boast row after row of slot machines, which Tucker calls the "crack cocaine" of gambling. There are more than 700,000 slot machines in the United States, state regulators report.

State lotteries offer their own opiate. It is called scratch tickets, and Massachusetts, with a variety of such games, is the national leader. It generates \$4.5 billion a year in lottery sales, with 70 percent of the total from scratch tickets. Another 15 percent comes from keno, the fast-play numbers game. Only 15 percent comes from delayed reward games such as Megabucks.

But state lotteries, which got their modern-day start in New Hampshire in 1963 and now raise money in 40 states, were only a Trojan horse for casinos. Today there are 445 commercial casinos in 11 states, and 405 Indian casinos in 28 states on land owned by America Indian tribes.

Massachusetts and New Hampshire are still casino-free states. But the Mashpee Wampanoags on Cape Cod have won preliminary federal approval as a recognized Indian tribe and could eventually force Massachusetts to negotiate a compact for casino gambling on a site acquired by the tribe.

In anticipation of that development, City Councilor George Rotondo of Revere has urged that city to pave the way with zoning regulations that allow construction of a casino resort complex, possibly at Suffolk Downs or Wonderland race track. He contends it would create hundreds of local jobs and boost Revere's economy.

So far, Rotondo's proposal has fallen on deaf ears. But casinos have helped revive some economically depressed communities around the country, providing jobs and contributing to local property taxes.

How did legal gambling as an economic engine get its impetus in America? Congressional approval of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988 set off the gold rush. The law was born of the U.S. Supreme Court decision forcing California to negotiate with American Indian tribes to establish casinos on tribal lands.

As Indian casinos proliferated, a handful of states joined Nevada and New Jersey in allowing commercial casinos. The payoff came from high license fees and contracts that included a handsome bite of the revenue pie. That caused other states too timid for full-fledged casinos to expand their lottery

games, add video poker parlors and install slot machines at racetracks.

It didn't take long for gambling to move up the nation's business leader board.

Casinos thrive on customer knowledge. They maintain a database of gamblers through credit-card systems like "Wampum cards" at Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut. Players earn points for money gambled on slot machines and other games. They can also earn free meals, show tickets, iPods and high-definition televisions. The idea is to keep gamblers happy and active.

But Joe Barrett, a vice president at Caesars Indiana, said casinos also monitor their database to ensure that patrons don't get carried away.

"We look at gaming as a form of recreation and a place for people to have fun," said Barrett. "We understand the responsible gaming part of it, and we take it very seriously, and we always have."

Yet Caesars Indiana was recently fined \$38,500 by the Indiana Gaming Commission for sending marketing materials to nine addicts who had asked to be banned from gambling. The casino was fined \$80,000 last year for similar violations. And other casinos in other states have also been fined for targeting gamblers who have admitted the problem and want to quit.

"There will be, I'm sure, in any system, those occasional slip-ups, because it's humans putting the information in," said Judy Hess, a Caesars Indiana spokeswoman. "But we try very, very, very hard to have it just absolutely 100 percent correct. There's no upside to marketing to people who shouldn't be gaming."

That's not the way Wolf, Tucker and other critics of gambling see it. They claim the industry thrives on seducing gamblers of all means to return again and again.

Tucker said gambling companies are masterful at using public relations to show concern for compulsive gambling while masking its devastating social impact.

She said it is also a clever way to avoid the type of grief the tobacco industry faced from public-health regulators in the 1980s and 1990s. They accused cigarette companies of not caring about the medical implications of smoking, triggering endless lawsuits by individuals and the states.

"The gambling industry has shrewdly learned from the experiences of the tobacco industry," Tucker said. "It was the public-health community that drove the anti-smoking movement. The gambling interests want to head off a similar experience."

What's more, Tucker added, they are succeeding.

"Their PR is brilliant," said Tucker. "That was clear when they got people to talk about gaming instead of gambling. They have changed the nomenclature."

[From the Lawrence Eagle Tribune,
May 28, 2006]

GAMBLING COMMISSION DEALT DEAD MAN'S
HAND

(By Denise Jewell)

A federal commission's study of legal gambling in the late 1990s produced several significant recommendations, but they ended up like poker's dead man's hand.

Dead man's hand is a term to describe the cards Wild Bill Hickock held—a pair of black aces and eights—when he was shot dead in a saloon in South Dakota in 1876.

The commission spent two years and \$5 million investigating the social and economic implications of lotteries, casinos and other gaming activities only to have its suggestion for a temporary freeze on further expansion of gambling shot down.

President Clinton urged creation of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission,

and Congress passed a law establishing the body. The mix of nine members included the chairman and chief executive officer of MGM Grand Inc. and the founder of Focus on Family.

The law required the commission to study the effects of problem gambling on individuals, families, businesses and social institutions, and to assess the state and local economic value of gambling facilities such as casinos, race tracks and video poker parlors.

In addition to a moratorium, the commission came up with dozens of other recommendations, including curtailing the growth of new lottery games, reducing lottery advertising and limiting lottery outlets in low-income neighborhoods.

The group's final report, released in June 1999, expressed concern that the rush to raise government revenue through gambling was creating a generation of young people who give little thought to gambling's down side.

"The commission recommends that all legal gambling should be restricted to those who are at least 21 years of age and that those who are under 21 should not be allowed to loiter in areas where gambling activity occurs," the report said.

Commissioners traveled throughout the country and held hearings that detailed dozens of hardship stories.

In Illinois, for instance, they heard about a Joliet couple who committed suicide after the wife accumulated \$200,000 in casino debt. In other places, they listened to testimony about embezzlement and other white collar crime to finance gambling habits.

But they also found some economically depressed locations were revived by the construction dollars and jobs associated with casinos, and that public services like roads and schools were improved from fees and taxes on gambling revenues.

"In Tunica, Miss., the advent of legalized gambling provided jobs for an area of extreme poverty," the commission found. "Many citizens of Tunica have undoubtedly benefited by the increase in the wage base and increased ability of its citizens to purchase homes and other amenities."

In addition to hearings, the commission's staff of researchers telephoned 2,417 adults and 534 adolescents across America and interviewed 530 people in gaming facilities.

The National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, hired by the commission to conduct the survey, estimated that 15 percent of total gambling revenue in the United States stems from problem or pathological gamblers.

More research on pathological gambling was recommended, but the commission also made it clear the states need to do more to help people addicted to games of chance.

"A major responsibility for addressing the problem of pathological gambling must be borne by the states that sponsor gambling," the commission concluded.

Furthermore, it said, "industry funds earmarked for treatment for pathological gambling are miniscule compared to that industry's total revenue."

[From the Lawrence Eagle Tribune,
June 4, 2006]

FEW TREATMENT DOLLARS FOR GAMBLERS
WHO NEED HELP

(By Denise Jewell)

Kathy Bassett, 49, a registered nurse from Topeka, Kan., didn't blink when Harrah's opened a casino 15 miles from her front door. She had zero interest in gambling. Nor did she worry about its social consequences.

That was before 2003, a nightmarish year that Bassett said opened her eyes wide to the problems associated with addictive gambling. In sequential order:

Her son, a casino pit boss, was arrested and sent to prison for stealing to support his gambling habit.

Her mother, retired and in her 70s, filed for bankruptcy after losing her life savings to the slot machines.

Her 37-year-old brother, David, in despair and shame over his inability to quit gambling, put a shotgun barrel to his mouth, pulled the trigger and ended his life.

This trilogy of shocks scared Bassett into researching the impact of compulsive gambling on ordinary families such as hers. She soon discovered plenty of others undergoing similar grief. Now, she's an anti-gambling crusader determined to expand and improve prevention and treatment programs.

"I just got so angry," Bassett said. "This in an industry worth hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars and . . . it means nothing to them" when people's lives are shattered.

Bassett said her research showed that help for problem gamblers in the United States is sporadic, inconsistent and badly underfunded. Especially when compared with tobacco, alcohol and drugs—addictions that states spend \$2.5 billion a year to treat, according to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

The evidence supports Bassett's analysis, a nationwide review of the issue by Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. News Service showed.

Not one federal dollar has been spent directly for treatment or prevention of problem gambling even though a Harvard University addiction expert, Professor Howard Shaffer of Andover, framed it as a national public health issue for the first time in a 2002 study.

"Excessive gambling, drinking, drugging are different expressions of a common underlying disorder," said Shaffer of his study. "But pathological gambling is being viewed (by the government) like some rare disease—much like AIDS was in its early stages. It doesn't get the attention it should as a public health issue."

Few federal dollars have been allocated for medical and other research that might help detect the problem before it gets out of hand, or provide guideposts for prevention. Congress did pay for a \$5 million, two-year study of the social and economic implications of gambling in the late 1990s, but little came of the short-lived effort.

American Indian tribes that own 405 casinos on sovereign tribal lands and the 48 states with some form of legal gambling are similarly stingy with spending on programs that could diminish the volume of high rollers.

Twenty-two states offer no programs at all, CNHI News Service found. And the 26 states that provide treatment don't put a lot of money into it, operate in isolation from others despite the wideranging mobility of problem gamblers and appear to accept the claim that sufficient community programs exist to help the truly addicted.

Across the country, the CNHI New Service survey found, state governments spend only \$35.5 million per year on helping problem gamblers even though the states rake in \$20.9 billion in gambling taxes annually.

The gambling industry does no better. It spends a small fraction of its billions in profits on research, prevention and treatment. And no where close to the many millions it shovels out to influence lawmakers through lobbying, and gamblers through TV, Internet, direct mail and billboard advertising.

The industry has established the National Center on Responsible Gaming, a small non-profit in Washington, D.C., that says it is "committed to funding research that some

day will identify the risk factors for gambling disorders and determine methods for not only treating the disorder but preventing it, much like physicians can identify patients at risk from cardiovascular disease long before a heart attack."

But the center operates on a shoestring compared with the huge outlays spent by government, private agencies, foundations and others on heart disease research. Its proudest achievement: a \$2.4 million startup grant and \$1.1 million annual appropriation to Harvard's Medical School to fund the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders.

Integrity in Science Project, a group that monitors scientific research for conflicts of interest, has indicated concern over Harvard accepting research money from an industry that benefits from the very problem under study. The unstated worry is research skewed to reflect a desired outcome—specifically, that addiction has been overstated by critics of legal gambling.

Christine Reilly, executive director of the Harvard institute, rejects any notion the gambling industry could manipulate the research. She said it funds the institute but has no say in how the research is conducted or the results—which, she added, are subject to rigorous peer review by scientific journals.

Two unaffiliated nonprofits are making independent efforts to help problem and compulsive gamblers, although both suffer from lack of resources. They are Gamblers Anonymous, which has more than 1,400 chapters in the United States, and the National Council on Problem Gambling, which has 34 state affiliates.

Gamblers Anonymous is modeled after the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. A state-by-state directory of local meetings is posted on its Web site (gamblersanonymous.org/mtgdirTOP.html). Financial support comes from private contributions.

The Council on Problem Gambling is an advocacy group that increases public awareness and encourages treatment programs for troubled gamblers and their families. Funds for the group's \$500,000-a-year budget come from private and foundation contributions and at least two casino companies. It operates a national hotline (1-800-522-4700) for problem gamblers, and more than 200,000 problem gamblers call it over the course of a year.

Keith S. Whyte is the council's executive director and once worked for the American Gaming Association, the industry's lobbying arm. He said the council is neutral on the debate over legalized gambling, focusing its efforts on helping addicts overcome their problem.

Whyte said the federal government has been unhelpful in the effort to get mental health care for problem gamblers. For example, he said, the Americans With Disabilities Act doesn't classify compulsive gambling as a mental disorder and thus insurance companies can refuse to pay for treatment programs.

"Addictive gambling is a rare and stigmatized sort of behavioral health disorder because there's no physical or outward signs," Whyte said. "It has slipped through the legislative cracks."

Congress, he added, could easily fix the issue by expanding the definition of the disabilities law to include compulsive gambling as a public health problem, along with alcohol and drug abuse.

Medical researchers say compulsive gambling is not as visible as alcoholism and drug overdosing, but it can be equally devastating to social behavior. They also say some of the brain receptors in gambling addicts appear to be different.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging studies have found abnormal signs of attention deficit disorder in pathological gamblers. Neurobiology research has indicated their brain chemistry is not the same as that in problem alcohol and drug users. This has led to experiments with the drugs Nalmefene and Revia to try to curb gambling cravings.

"If you look at the MRI of a gambler, his brain looks different," said Whyte, who tracks the research. "But it is very hard to get that across to the admitting nurse that's going to say, 'Why don't you just stop gambling? Why don't you go home? You shouldn't have been gambling in the first place.'"

But self-discipline is not a characteristic of compulsive gamblers. Few of them put their names on "exclusion lists" required to be kept by casinos for problem gamblers who want to quit on their own. Gamblers who sign up are banned from receiving credit or gambling. Casinos can also add problem gamblers to the list and arrest violators for trespass.

There are other ways the industry says it tries to discourage gambling by people who shouldn't do it or can't afford it. They include posted warnings in casinos, race tracks and video poker parlors about overdoing it, cautionary wording on the back of lottery tickets, public service announcements about the consequences of addictive gambling and Web sites that test for symptoms of compulsive behavior.

Ken Davie, a vice president at Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut, said the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation donates \$200,000 a year to that state's council on problem gambling and also distributes warning pamphlets. But he said it is hard to detect problem gamblers in a state that features 7,000 slot machines at Foxwoods and another 6,000 at nearby Mohegan Sun Casino.

"You have 13,000 opportunities to be hidden," Davie said. "Some of these machines are sitting in the corner. You can be hidden away. You could come in and feed \$100 bills all day and we wouldn't know you're gambling away your life fortune."

The American Psychiatric Association describes impulse playing of slots and other instant response games as "persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior" personified by symptoms such as obsession with risk, lack of self-control and lying.

"Pathological gambling is a condition where the person's out of control," said Jon Welte, a researcher at the University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions. "They can't stop gambling and they can't moderate the amount they do. Gambling has kind of taken over their life."

Welte said researchers are struggling to understand why some people develop problems gambling while others can do it recreationally for years without becoming addicted.

"We're 20 or 30 years behind the research that's been done on alcohol and drugs," he said. "There's been a lot of (gambling) research done about prevalence. We need more research that gets closer at examining the causes."

A local judge in the western New York town of Amherst isn't into medical research, but he presides over the nation's first and only "gambling court" to treat the addiction problem when it is related to crime. Sentences can include psychiatric evaluation and counseling.

Judge Mark G. Farrell created the court five years ago after several unlikely defendants in a string of theft and embezzlement cases admitted they were addicted to gambling at casinos a half-hour away in Canada. Since then, two American Indian casinos have opened nearby in the United States.

Farrell said the public perception that reckless gambling is a "character flaw" rather than a disease or addiction has contributed to the slow development of programs to treat problem gamblers.

"They are more likely to admit they're a heroin addict than they would be to admit they're a compulsive gambler," he said. "And yet they've gone through their own money, their family's money, their kids' money. There could be a divorce action going on. They've had DWIs. A whole range of things."

Some states earmark gambling revenue for treatment services, but even they have not kept pace with the rapid expansion of gambling within their borders and nearby states.

Nevada, where gambling has been legal since 1931, did not set aside money for treatment until last year. New Hampshire, birthplace of the modern lottery, still spends nothing. And Massachusetts spends only \$655,000 of its \$742 million annual gambling take on prevention and treatment.

Furthermore, there are only two residential treatment centers specifically for problem gamblers, places where addicts can go for several days or weeks to overcome their compulsion. One is in Baltimore and the other in Louisiana.

Tim Christensen, treatment administrator for the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling, said the gambling industry and the states that rely on it will be forced to change as public awareness grows.

"Look at the tobacco issues that our country has gone through," said Christensen. "You went from a vast majority of people that smoked to a vast minority. That happened over time and with tons of resources put into it."

For advocates like Bassett, the nurse from Topeka who lost her brother to suicide, the time of enlightenment can't come soon enough. Prevention, she said, is also more complex than hotlines, self-exclusion lists, warning pamphlets.

She said her brother, a social worker who once manned a crisis hotline, had sought help from a private counselor and had even banned himself from the casino near his home. But the day before he died, she said, he drove right past it to another and proceeded to spend most of the day losing money he was holding for his mother.

"There are no clocks. There are no windows," said Bassett. "It's an unreal existence in there. It's not like playing with real money. It gives you the delusion of not really losing."

[From the Lawrence Eagle Tribune,
June 4, 2006]

PROBING THE MIND TO UNLOCK GAMBLING ADDICTION

(By Denise Jewell)

Piecing together the information doctors know about the biology of pathological gambling is like solving a difficult jigsaw puzzle for researchers like Dr. Jon Grant. "This is not simply an issue with people with poor or weak moral character as some myths portray it," Grant said. "This is an addiction. It is complex."

Grant is a medical doctor and a psychiatrist at the University of Minnesota who specializes in studying compulsive gambling. For eight years, he has been searching for a medical solution to curb cravings associated with problem gambling. He and his research team have done brain scans and other tests that indicate chemicals and receptors react differently when compulsive gamblers are calm and when they're revved up to bet.

The most recent results of that work—published in February's edition of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*—advances evidence

that pathological gamblers are physically different from other types of gamblers. Compulsive gamblers who took the experimental drug Nalmefene, for instance, were less impulsive than those given a placebo. "For the last 10 years, there have been rumblings that it's a biological problem," Grant said. "This gives a lot more support to that theory."

While researchers have only recently started to record results for drugs that help overcome the urge to gamble, doctors have been working on the neurobiology aspects of gambling for more than two decades. The late Dr. Robert L. Custer, a pioneer in compulsive gambling research, convinced the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to classify the impulses of addicts as a disease much like Tourette's syndrome and pyromania. Custer categorized gamblers as professional, antisocial, casual, serious, escape and compulsive. Professional gamblers, he said, were not compulsive even though they took risks and gambled frequently. He said they used gambling as a job, showing clear-headed money skills, reasoned strategies and the ability to walk away without losing their bankroll. Custer characterized antisocial gamblers as withdrawn but not compulsive, casual gamblers as infrequent players, serious gamblers as those who use counting or tracking techniques to beat the odds at card tables, and escape gamblers as those who occasionally get away from reality through gambling.

Grant said gambling addiction could become a "huge social problem" as legal gambling grows in popularity through such things as televised poker tournaments and the greater availability of instant impulse games like slot machines. "We're seeing different demographics—people from all walks of life—involved," he said. "It suggests that this is going to be a bigger and bigger problem as time goes on." At the University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions, John Welte has been working to quantify the scope of the problem through research that involved interviewing 2,631 people. He said the survey showed that compulsive gambling and the related social costs can be traced in concentric circles around a gambling facility. The closer in you get, the more severe the issue, he said. And, he added, people living in poorer neighborhoods reported higher rates of problem gambling.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF HOPE'S TRI-STATE LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL HONORING MR. JOSEPH SELLERS WITH ITS SPIRIT OF LIFE AWARD

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the accomplishments of Mr. Joseph Sellers. Joe Sellers is the President and Business Manager for Local Union 19 of the Sheet Metal Workers in the Philadelphia area, Central Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Delaware.

This week, The City of Hope's Tri-State Labor and Management Council will honor Mr. Sellers with its Spirit of Life Award.

City of Hope National Medical Center is one of the world's leading research and treatment centers for cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and bone marrow transplantation. City of Hope's Tri-state Labor and Management Council

Award has for many years increased public awareness and support for its research efforts. The Council's efforts are vital to City of Hope's battle against killer diseases. Additionally, the Labor and Management Council provides opportunities to union and management leaders to work together for a common cause—to assist the City of Hope in its vital research and patient care, no matter how long the hospital stay or complex the therapy.

Mr. Sellers began as an apprentice in 1980. Since then Mr. Sellers has made great contributions to his union and his community. Mr. Sellers has served as a union Executive Board Member, Training Coordinator, and Business Agent.

Mr. Sellers has held numerous positions within his union's International Association and currently holds executive positions with the Pennsylvania State Council of Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, New Jersey State Council of Sheet Metal Workers, Mechanical Trades District Council of Delaware Valley, Metropolitan Association of Presidents and Business Representatives, and the National Energy Management Institute.

If these positions were not enough, Mr. Sellers is the Vice-President of the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council and the Philadelphia AFL-CIO. He is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Mechanical and Allied Crafts Council of New Jersey.

Additionally, Mr. Sellers is an Executive Board Member of the Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council and the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and a Member of the Pennsylvania State Apprentice and Training Council.

In addition to his commitment to supporting working men and women throughout the Delaware Valley, Mr. Sellers is active in civic, charitable, and government affairs. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he gathered monetary donations as well as clothing and food for the storm ravaged communities along the Gulf Coast. Recognizing the Gulf Coast's need for strong backs, hard workers, raw manpower, he dispatched union workers to aid in hurricane recovery.

In his local community, Mr. Sellers has spent countless hours working with the Piney Grove Baptist Church and Community Center and The Potter House Mission. For these honors Mr. Sellers selected as Labor Leader of the Year 2004 for the Boy Scouts of America, and the 2004 Labor Leader award from the American Veterans Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to draw this Chamber's attention to the accomplishments of Mr. Sellers. He has made a great contribution to his community. Our nation would be greatly improved if we all made a fraction of the contribution as Mr. Sellers.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN GEORGE KNOP FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian George Knop, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by tak-

ing an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Brian has served in the leadership positions of Chaplains Aide and Quartermaster, among others. He is a Brotherhood member of Order of the Arrow and a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. For his Eagle Scout project, Brian planned and supervised the landscaping of the front side of the Liberty United Methodist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

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

IN MEMORY OF HUGH C. REYNOLDS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Hugh C. Reynolds of Fordyce, Arkansas. Strong leadership, vision, concern for others, and philanthropy were enduring legacies left by H.C. Reynolds. He passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the age of 85, after having served his nation, state, and the city of Fordyce with distinction. I would like to recognize Mr. Reynolds' contributions to Arkansas and our Nation.

H.C. Reynolds was born August 5, 1920 to the late Hugh Cleveland and Ruth Sisson Reynolds in Fordyce. He was a dedicated member of Fordyce First Baptist Church and a Shriner.

Mr. Reynolds will forever be remembered for his bravery, leadership, and compassion. He served his nation as an Army Veteran of World War II and was a lifelong member of the Democratic Party. He also recently resigned as Chairman of the Dallas County Democratic Committee.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances Keenum Reynolds and a brother, William Reynolds. My deepest condolences go out to his sister, Mary Ruth Creech of Camden; his son, Collins Reynolds and wife Janie of Bismark; his daughters, Linda Hankins and husband Troy of Pine Bluff, Vickie Gray and husband Paul of Hot Springs; his five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Mr. Reynolds' legacy and spirit will live on in those who lives he touches.

INDIAN COUNTRY EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Indian Country Educational Empowerment Act. This Act will facilitate economic growth and development in Indian

Country by dramatically increasing the incentives for individuals with advanced degrees to work within and for Indian Country.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that Native Americans continue to rank at the bottom of every indicator of social and economic well-being in America. Unemployment continues to average near 50 percent in Indian Country and hovers well over 90 percent on many Reservations. Indian Country continues to have some of the highest rates of poverty, poorest health, highest mortality rates, and lowest levels of educational achievement in the United States.

A unique legal and political relationship exists between the United States and Indian tribes that is reflected in the Constitution, various treaties, Federal statutes, Supreme Court decisions, and executive agreements. This creates a responsibility for the federal government to facilitate and complement tribal governments' efforts to improve the quality of life for Native Americans and encourage economic development in Indian Country. This bill does just that.

Numerous external efforts at economic development in Indian Country have proven unsuccessful. The most successful efforts have been initiated from within native communities themselves. Economic development efforts that empower native communities and give them the tools to make their own decisions should be encouraged and pursued.

I believe that education and economic development go hand-in-hand in Indian Country. Indeed, higher education is a fundamental form of economic development. Yet, an uneducated workforce continues to be a cyclical obstacle to economic growth in Indian Country.

The cycle is vicious. Businesses are often unwilling to locate into Indian Country because of the lack of an educated workforce and Native American youth see little value in an advanced degree because there are no jobs on the Reservation that would reward one. Those native youth that do obtain a higher education often do not return to their communities because there are no jobs.

Higher education is costly to attain. As college and graduate school costs continue to swell, students are increasingly shouldering high levels of debt to pay for a college education. In fact, thirty-nine percent of student borrowers now graduate with levels of debt that require monthly payments in excess of eight percent of their total monthly incomes.

Loan repayment assistance for higher education graduates choosing to work in Indian Country will help break this cycle of poverty and promote economic development. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING REN DICKSON FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ren Dickson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by tak-

ing an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 337, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ren has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ren has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

CONGRESS SALUTES LANCE
CORPORAL JASON KEITH BURNETT

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Jason Keith Burnett, a lance corporal with the United States Marine Corps—who lost his life in Iraq while conducting combat operations on May 11, 2006 in the Al Anbar Province.

Burnett drowned with three other Marines when their tank plunged off a bridge during a combat patrol. The others killed in the accident were Lance Corporal David J. Grames Sanchez of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2nd Lt. Michael L. Licaizi of Garden City, New York and Corporal Steve Vahaviolos of Airmont, New York.

At the time of his death, Lance Corporal Burnett was a member of Company A, 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

His parents, Ronald and Michele Burnett and his brother, Ryan, a Marine stationed in Hawaii, survive him. Several hundred people attended the funeral at First Baptist Church of Poinciana on May 25, 2006 to honor our fallen hero.

He served his country honorably—with courage, inspiring initiative and distinction.

A devoted Marine and true patriot, it has been said of Lance Corporal Burnett that he knew how to make people laugh and he knew when it was time to be serious—either by helping the poor through his church or playing soccer.

He will be long remembered for his love of outdoors, his successful mission trips with his church and his ultimate sacrifice for his country. We've lost another great American. We will all miss him. Jason Burnett is a true hero. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5441) making ap-

propriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support passage of this bill.

While I am upset that the Democratic Motion offered by my colleague NITA LOWEY, which would have increased the first responder grants for urban areas by \$750 million, was defeated on a party line basis, she raises important issues that must be addressed.

Where have foreign terrorists struck when they attack our country?

They attack major urban areas, as they look to create spectacular havoc while maximizing the killing of civilians—that is the calling card of Osama bin Laden. Remember him? Sometimes we forget him in the discussion of tax cuts and gay marriage and all the other issues—but he is still out there and still threatening our country, and especially New York and Washington, almost everyday.

Al-Qaeda is not human—but we need to be ready for other attacks. That means proactive preparedness, as well as improving our reactive response as well.

Proactively, we need to better protect our urban areas—the terrorist targeted areas—like New York.

New York was the target in 1993 when terrorists bombed the World Trade Center, and again on September 11, 2001, when they completed the job they started 8 years earlier. New York City is the most targeted city in the country and likely on Earth by terrorists.

This is a reality Congress and the White House need to face. And if we are serious about protecting America—all Americans—regardless of their voting patterns, then we must go about protecting these most targeted and most vulnerable areas.

And I don't just say New York City is targeted to get my hometown more money. We know we are targeted due to information our U.S. intelligence services provide to us.

Being on al-Qaeda's hit list is one of the few distinctions New York City has that I am not proud of, and not happy to talk about.

But we must talk about it—because it is, again, reality.

I salute the Appropriations Committee for working with me and agreeing to the amendment I offered with my colleague from New York, VITO FOSSELLA, to increase the current urban area security initiative by \$20 million—a \$12.7 million increase over last year. But more funding is needed.

But this issue of homeland security and ensuring the resources are there for our first responders—both for proactive and reactive preparedness—is more than an issue of funding in total dollar amounts. It comes down to the flawed funding formulas developed by Congress and the Bush White House to distribute homeland security dollars.

These flawed formulas were crystallized last week when President Bush announced a 40 percent cut in urban security aid to New York City, saying the funds weren't needed for us.

Instead, these urban security dollars went to places like Louisville, Kentucky, while certainly at risk, cannot claim to have the critical infrastructure of New York City under the terrorist microscope.

This is a reality too—a sad and pathetic reality that our homeland security dollars have become the latest pot of federal funding to be

politicized by this White House instead of being used to protect Americans at greatest risk of terror attack.

Other realities:

Our country takes urban security funds created for places like New York and diverts them to Louisiana;

Our Nation provides more homeland security dollars per capita to Wyoming than to New York;

And sadly, protecting our homeland security is more about politics than security.

We haven't caught Osama bin Laden, the Taliban is returning to Afghanistan, and Congress is not providing the funds to our first responders to protect our targeted cities—our Nation's homeland security is a sad reflection of our great country.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY WARREN
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Anthony Warren, 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 337, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Anthony has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Anthony has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMED FORCES
AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this morning we woke up to the news that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the vicious terrorist who has beheaded innocent civilians and murdered women and children in furtherance of his perverted view of peaceful religion, was killed by a U.S. precision guided air-strike.

I would like to take this moment to thank the men and women of our Armed Forces and the intelligence community for their tireless efforts in striking the sword of justice deep into the heart of the terrorist threat. I want them to know that their work has saved the lives of Americans and Iraqis.

While there is the possibility that someone will attempt to rise and take Zarqawi's place, I am hopeful that confusion and fear will now reign supreme amongst the terrorists and that Iraq's newly formed government can use this to their advantage and continue moving Iraq forward. There is still work to do, and we must

remain vigilant. The global war on terror is not about an individual, but about combating a perverted ideology that hates freedom, democracy, justice and equal rights for all.

Again, I congratulate our military and the Iraqi people for this success and hope that Zarqawi's death will lead to peace and stability in Iraq.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF SAM
PIERSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Sam Pierson, who passed away on the 25th of January. Sam was an admired and cherished member of the Lewisville, AR, community, and I would like to take a few moments to recognize his achievements.

Mr. Pierson was born on February 10, 1931, in Bebee, OK. As a dedicated law enforcement officer, Sam served as the Lewisville city marshal in 1968 and the Lafayette County deputy in 1980. Sam then served as the Lewisville chief of police from 1985 to 1998 and most recently as the Lafayette County sheriff from 2001 to 2002. He was extremely respected among his colleagues, and was a member of the Arkansas Sheriff's Association and the National Association of Chiefs of Police.

In addition to his remarkable achievements in public service, Sam Pierson also served his country. He was a veteran of the Korean war, where he was wounded and received a Purple Heart. He was also a member of the Oklahoma National Guard 45th Division and a member of the American Legion.

I am deeply saddened by the death of Sam Pierson. His passing will leave a void in Lafayette County, the city of Lewisville, and in the lives of his family and many friends. While Mr. Pierson may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched.

My most heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Maebell Pierson; their 3 sons, George and wife Mary Ann Pierson, John and wife Billie Joe Pierson, and Joe and wife Sheila Pierson; their 3 daughters, Kay and husband Hoppy Higgins, Linda and husband Wayne Etue, and Samantha and husband Michael Henry; his 3 brothers, Jimmy Milligan, Doug Milligan, and Charles Milligan; his 4 sisters, Daisy Neff, Georgia Cox, Vadia Ross, and Barbara Muntz; his 15 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE ANGSTURA
IRRIGATION PROJECT REHABILITATION
AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Oglala Sioux Tribe Angostura Irrigation Project Rehabilitation and

Development Act. This legislation authorizes much-needed efficiency improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura Unit, a Federal Bureau of Reclamation dam on the Cheyenne River in South Dakota. These improvements will restore critical water resources and promote economic development on the nearby Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

This bill provides important resources to the citizens of South Dakota and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It authorizes funds to carry out the Bureau of Reclamation's recommended improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura dam. The dam provides substantial economic benefits to many South Dakotans. It provides irrigation to 12,218 acres of land which benefits ranchers and agricultural producers in the area, and it supports an important recreational boating and fishing industry which is enjoyed by many of our citizens.

Until now, however, the Angostura dam has failed to provide any of these economic benefits to the members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who live just 20 miles downstream of the dam on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Oglala Sioux Tribe has long relied on the resources provided by the Cheyenne River, which forms part of the northern boundary of its reservation. Long before the dam was constructed as part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Project, the tribe relied on the river as an important economic resource. Since it was completed, however, the dam has taken an enormous toll on the tribe. The dam curbed the Cheyenne River's natural flow, reducing water quality on the reservation, diminishing natural riparian habitats, adversely impacting fish and wildlife and forcing important tribal agricultural enterprises to shut their doors.

The bill implements the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative in its revised water management plan for the Angostura Unit, which calls for improved efficiencies in irrigation operations that will free up additional water resources for both existing water users and the tribe. In addition, the legislation would authorize the creation of a trust fund to compensate the tribe for the devastating economic impacts and loss of natural resources caused by the operation of the dam. The fund will be used to promote economic and infrastructure development on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and enhance the education, health and general welfare of the Oglala Lakota people.

I hope that my distinguished colleagues will take up and pass this legislation quickly. It will allow all of us in South Dakota to better use our natural resources, while keeping our solemn commitment to deal fairly and honorably with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. I ask for your help and support in moving it forward.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH OLVERA
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Olvera, 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 337, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

CONGRESS SALUTES BRIGADIER
GENERAL MARK H. OWEN

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Brigadier General Mark H. Owen, Commander of the 45th Space Wing in Florida and Deputy Department of Defense Manager for Manned Space Flight Support to NASA. I congratulate him on his new assignment as Deputy Director, Strategic Security, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC.

For the past 2 years, Brigadier General Owen has served as the Director of the Eastern Range, responsible for the safe and secure access to space of America's manned and unmanned space vehicles.

During this time, he was responsible for the processing and launch of U.S. Government and commercial satellites from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

The Eastern Range encompasses a 15 million square mile area, that includes a network of radar, telemetry tracking and telecommunication hardware operating at sites up the East Coast and in the Atlantic Ocean including detachments at Antigua Air Station and Ascension Island.

General Owen earned his commission upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1979. To date, he has received seven promotions and served in a variety of space and missile assignments involving missile combat crew operations, satellite command and control, space lift and test range operations and major space systems acquisitions.

During the early years of his service, his assignments included the Phillips Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, California; the National Reconnaissance Office and the Office for the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition in Washington, D.C.

General Owen has also served in staff positions at Headquarters Air Force Space Command and in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space, as well as the Office of Secretary of the Air Force.

His command experience includes leading a squadron in Colorado and California, and serving as commander of the 91st Space Wing, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota and the 45th Space Wing, Florida.

Brigadier General Owen's education accomplishments include two undergraduate degrees, one in biology/pre-med from the U.S. Air Force Academy and the other in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico. He earned two Master degrees, one in systems management from the University of Southern California and the other in national security strategy from the National Defense University, National War College. Other education accomplishments include Squadron Officer School, Marine Corps Command and Staff from the Marine Corps Institute, Defense Systems Management College, Program Management, distinguished graduate from Air Command and Staff College and National Security Management Fellow from Syracuse University.

Brigadier General Owen's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

I am honored to rise in support of General Owen's service to our Nation and I am proud of his commitment to the cause of liberty and freedom. I wish him every success as he continues to serve this great Nation in the United States Air Force.

TRIBUTE TO EMIL EISDORFER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emil Eisdorfer, a constituent of mine as well as a friend to the Bronx community for his years of public service.

On June 8, 2006, Mr. Eisdorfer will be honored by the Beth Jacob-Beth Miriam School in recognition of all the hard work and his dedication to the Bronx community. He has taken the word community service above and beyond in an effort to serve not only his community but my constituents as well.

Mr. Eisdorfer was born in a small town in Ukraine called Mukachevo, known for its rich Jewish history up until World War II when the Nazi's genocide machine took the lives of many of his relatives, including his grandparents.

Mr. Eisdorfer's life is a real example of the American Dream. Immigrating to the United States with his wife in 1974, Mr. Eisdorfer, using his knowledge of watch making opened a small business in the Pelham Parkway neighborhood of the Bronx. While he worked to provide for his wife Elena and his two kids Jacob and Sharon, he never forgot where he came from and how he got to America. He used his standing in the Bronx community and knowledge to assist arriving immigrants from the former Soviet Union in job placement and counseling.

In addition to helping immigrants here in the United States, Emil also used his 30 years of experience in business, economic development, and retail sales to help create the Business Improvement District, in the Bronx. Emil was always willing to help around the community.

Additionally, Emil served on numerous community boards including Vice Chairman of

Community board 11 and President of the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway. Under this role he helped expand the council's membership, funding, and improving its services to the community.

Emil currently works as a staff-member in the New York City Council, while his two children finish up their advance degrees.

Needless to say, the work of this man has no boundaries. I am pleased that Beth Jacob-Beth Miriam School is honoring Emil, and I join with them in extending my appreciation to him for his service to his community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR
EMERITUS VINCE WHIBBS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but also with a tremendous sense of pride that I rise today to recognize and remember a beacon for civil service, Mr. Vince Whibbs. Vince left us Tuesday, May 30th. He was 86 years old. Vince was an incredible man and his absence will leave a void in Pensacola that will not soon be filled. Vicki and I grieve with the rest of the area at the passing of such a pillar of society. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Anna, his wife of 63 years, their seven children, 26 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren.

Mr. Whibbs was a native of Buffalo, New York and attended the University of Buffalo before becoming an "office boy" for the Pontiac Motor Division of General Motors in 1940. As the Nation was in the grips of World War II, Vince left Pontiac to attend the Army Air Force Pilot Training where he became a fighter pilot and eventually became a flight instructor for the Army Air Corps.

He left the military as a captain in 1946 and returned to the Pontiac Motor Division, rising to the position of zone manager. In 1958, Pensacola was unknowingly blessed when Vince moved his family to the area to take over a local Pontiac dealership.

Friendly, outgoing, and charming, Vince had a love for Pensacola that was overshadowed only by his love of God, country, and family. He was constantly giving back to the community through his involvement in local organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, the Pensacola chapter of the Navy League, the Fiesta of Five Flags, the United Way, Rotary Club International, Junior Achievement and Project Alert.

Mr. Whibbs also gave generously of his time, serving the community in multiple leadership roles, earnestly working to make Pensacola an even better place to live. In 1963, he was elected to the City Council where he served for two years. In 1974, he was selected to head the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce.

In 1978, he was appointed to a two-year term as mayor of Pensacola but did such a great job that he ended up serving through June of 1991. Mayor Whibbs was Pensacola's longest-serving mayor and even after he left the position in 1991, maintained the title of mayor emeritus. During his tenure, Pensacola experienced tremendous growth including the building of the current City Hall, the expansion

and revitalization of the Pensacola Regional Airport, and the building of the new Pensacola Police Department.

In 1991, Mayor Whibbs was honored on the House floor by Congressman Earl Hutto, who accurately described him by saying, "Vince's real strengths lie in his basic personality and his never-ending promotion of the city's goodwill. Vince Whibbs is known nationwide, and everyone who knows him breaks into a spontaneous smile when his name is mentioned. In other words, no one doesn't like Vince Whibbs."

The Pensacola News Journal stated that "his mind worked so rapidly that his words tumbled out at you to the point that you'd want to call for backup. He spoke from a golden throat with a silver tongue, ever the diplomat representing Pensacola."

Vince was well known for a rapid-fire delivery of this speech he recited for visiting dignitaries:

On behalf of our elected City Council, those 10 masterful men who manage our magnificent municipality; and on behalf of the chairman of our county commission and his four commissioners who constantly deal with the changing, challenging conditions of our county; and on behalf of our wonderful people who populate the Northwest Florida area, it is my privilege and pleasure as mayor to welcome you to Pensacola, the western gate to the Sunshine State, where thousands live the way millions wish they could, where the warmth of our community comes not only from God's good sunshine, but from the hearts of the people who live here. Welcome to Pensacola, America's first place city and the place where America began.

Vince remained a champion for the Pensacola Bay Area all of the way up to his last moments. He passed after dressing for a television appearance to promote a proposed Community Maritime Park on the waterfront of downtown Pensacola. Vince campaigned endlessly for downtown redevelopment and was a staunch believer in making a good city a great place to work and live. His son Mark Whibbs put it best when he said about his father, "He loved this city, and he became a big part of it from the moment he moved here. And he never stopped."

He was a friend of Pensacola, a friend of the military and a personal friend of mine. His enthusiasm was contagious, his integrity inspiring. Pensacola has lost a great man. Vince Whibbs will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING JIM WEIDINGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jim Weidinger. Jim is retiring after over 30 years of service to the United States Department of Agriculture in Rural Development. A lifelong Missourian, Jim was born and raised on a farm in Vienna, Missouri, then after the completion of high school attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

Jim began his career with Rural Development on February 11, 1975 as an Assistant Emergency Loan Supervisor in the Union, Missouri, office. His career spanned 30 years at

various offices and levels within the Rural Development Department. Toward the end of his tenure, Jim was crucial in the process of obtaining grants that have been critical to the growth and development of northwest Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jim Weidinger of St. Joseph, Missouri. Jim's commitment to excellence is remarkable, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN LASTING RECOGNITION OF CHARLES RICHARD LIPPARD

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles Richard "Rick" Lippard of Booneville, AR, who passed away on March 9, 2006. Rick was born on May 31, 1946, and I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

A graduate of Bauxite High School, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Arkansas School of Law, Rick started a law practice in Booneville in 1970. Throughout his legal career, he served as Booneville City Attorney, Logan County Deputy Prosecutor, Public Defender, and Booneville Municipal Judge. He was also a member of the American Bar Association and the Arkansas Bar Association.

Rick was also extremely active in the Booneville community where he was President and member of the Booneville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Booneville Parks and Recreation Commission, a Member of the USDA Committee, President, Paul Harris Fellow, and member of the Booneville Rotary Club, Booneville Little League Coach and board member of First Western Bank.

In 2003, Rick was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, ALS, and true to his nature, passionately volunteered in whatever capacity possible. He volunteered tirelessly for the Fort Smith Chamber of Muscular Dystrophy Association, MDA, and the Memphis and Arkansas Chapters of the ALS Association.

As a man of faith, Rick taught the McLean Bible Study Class at First United Methodist Church and was a devoted member of the Walnut Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Rick spent a lifetime dedicated to the community of Booneville and will be deeply missed. My deepest sympathies go to his wife, Elaine; his three daughters, Lisa, Laura and Lesley; his three sons, Billy, Justin and Kyle; and his sister, Sharon. While Rick may no longer be with us, his legacy will live on in the lives he touched.

TRIBUTE TO BETH ASHLEY ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to celebrate my friend Beth

Ashley on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Beth has enriched so many lives in Marin County, CA, through her years of accomplished writing for the Marin Independent Journal as well as for her passionate immersion in varied aspects of life in the community and around the globe.

Born in Massachusetts, Beth moved many times in her early years as the family sought financial stability during the Depression. With the help of her supportive family, she developed an interest in writing and worked on school newspapers. They moved to Marin in 1942, and, after finishing her junior year in high school, Beth entered Stanford University where she became editor of the Stanford Daily. She graduated in 1947 with majors in journalism and political science.

Beth's journalism career began in Marin at KTIM radio and included stints in southern California and Europe before her first job at the Independent Journal, IJ, as a copy editor in 1953. She soon became news editor, one of only two women with such a position in California at that time. Except for a 12-year break to raise her children and a brief foray into a public relations business, Beth has been an important fixture in several different roles at the IJ. She currently shines as a feature writer.

Raising her five sons—including two from the previous marriage of her second husband, Ross Ashley—was a role Beth also relished. She loved her years as a homemaker but returned to work when her husband died of cancer in 1971.

Another constant in Beth's life has been travel, which feeds her curiosity as well as nourishing her compassion for others. She has written movingly on topics such as the food shortages in Moscow in the early years of Glasnost to the struggles of women in Afghanistan trying to recover from years of repressive Taliban rule, and she is currently involved in Iran and its people on the ground, as well as in Darfur.

Beth has been a positive force on nonprofit boards in Marin County including the Marin Aids Political Action Committee, Love is the Answer, the Marin Education Fund, and the Red Cross. She has won numerous awards for her community service, awards which reflect her caring and commitment. She also published a book, entitled, of course, *Marin*, which captures the same essence of the area that is reflected in her features.

Readers of the IJ look forward eagerly to Beth's columns which illuminate all aspects of life in Marin County as well as capturing deeper feelings about our global world and our shared humanity. Reflecting on the life of a young girl who is working in Darfur, Sudan, with Doctors Without Borders, Beth mused, "Young people today do remarkable things—eschewing personal comfort, risking their lives—to help humanity in the rest of the world.... And I felt stirrings of regret that I had never fulfilled a long-ago urge to change the work with unselfish service of my own."

Fortunately, she adds to these ruminations, "My life has been happier than I could ever have dreamed." Her happiness, caring, and concern shine through both in person and in the newspaper. Beth's writings have been a remarkable and unselfish service to the people of her community and beyond, but to Beth, her children are one of the most important legacies anyone could have.

Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to thank Beth Ashley for what she has given to us and to join with thousands of others in wishing her a happy 80th birthday.

HONORING THE CONSECRATION OF
ELIZABETH CHAPEL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous joy and celebration that I rise today to honor the consecration of the Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church in Chumuckla, FL, where my wife Vicki and I have been members since 2001.

Elizabeth Chapel has been a home for me; a place of solace where I can go to be closer to God and get back in tune with what is really important in my life. Likewise, the church family has acted as a true family to my wife and me, continuously offering us their support, encouragement, and kindness.

Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church has served a vital role in the community of Chumuckla since 1937. Originating from the marriage of two smaller churches in the late 1930s, the church has remained a quaint group of adamant believers whose moral fiber and strength is unwavering.

On September 16, 2004, Hurricane Ivan tore through the area, leaving damage, destruction, and heartbreak in its wake. The hurricane left the church building irreparable and it was soon leveled to begin new construction. Though many members of the congregation lost their homes or had significant damage to their own property in the storm, in the week that followed the hurricane, members of the church and others in the community came together descending on the church grounds to help FEMA distribute over 60,000 MRE's as well as ice and water to those in need.

In the months that followed with the glorification of God's work in their hearts, the community, congregation and other churches in the surrounding area came together to begin rebuilding Elizabeth Chapel. It has been nearly two years since Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast, and the reconstruction is complete. On Sunday, June 10, 2006, I will join in the fellowship and celebration of the consecration of the Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I truly represent an incredible group of people. It warms my heart that the community, congregation, and other churches have come together, through the hardships and heartache that have been prevalent since hurricane Ivan, to once again provide a house of worship to the amazingly resilient members of Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church.

RECOGNIZING KYLE AUSTIN
SPANGLER FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Austin Spangler, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND B.J.
JACKSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Reverend Brisco James "B.J." Jackson of Crossett, Arkansas. Reverend Jackson dedicated his life to serving others through ministry. He passed on an enduring legacy with his strong leadership, vision, and concern for others. Reverend Jackson passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the age of 83.

Rev. Jackson was born in Shelton, LA to James and Mittie Jackson and raised in Oak Ridge, LA, by his grandmother, Maggie Lewis. In 1943 he moved to Crossett, where he was employed by Crossett Lumber Co. Throughout his impressive career, Rev. Jackson joined New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the usher and deacon boards. He became a minister in 1949 and served as pastor at Ivory Chapel Baptist Church in Bastrop, LA, Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monroe, LA, Rose Hill Baptist Church in Dermott, and Holly Springs Baptist Church in Pine Hill. In 1950, he became pastor of New Bethel and became full-time pastor in 1966.

Rev. Jackson's commitment went far beyond his activities as pastor; he was passionate about giving back through other community service as well. In addition to serving as pastor of New Bethel, he was moderator of the Southeast District Baptist Association for 29 years, second vice president of the Regular Arkansas Baptist Association, and instructor of the ministers' seminar in the association for over 20 years. Reverend Jackson was also president of the Williams Daycare Center board of directors, a 32nd degree Mason, a member of Exodus Lodge 403 of Crossett and Scottish Rites Angerona Lodge 78 in Pine Bluff, and a member of Eastern Star of Silver Star Lodge 306 in Crossett.

A man of great character, he returned to high school at the age of 31 and graduated from T. W. Daniel in 1959. He was also a graduate of United Theological Seminary in Monroe.

While Rev. Jackson may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife of 62 years, Sallie Lee Jackson; their daughters Hazel Hill, Betty Levy, Bobbie Hendrix and husband John; their son Charles Jackson and wife Mary; his sister

Leola Coleman; his fifteen grandchildren; twenty-eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH VERDU

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Verdu, a man who was loved and admired by many people in my hometown of Petaluma, California. Joe passed away on November 5, 2003, at the age of 69. On May 20, 2006, friends and family gathered for the dedication and renaming of McDowell Field to the Joseph F. Verdu Athletic Field.

Joe deserved this honor. He was active in youth sports in Petaluma, inspiring many young people with his warmth and commitment. He helped organize the Petaluma Youth Soccer League and served as its president for three years. He was also vice president of the California Youth Soccer Association for two years and on the board of the Petaluma Valley Little League. The City honored him with a Community Recognition Award in 1978 and the State of California with the Parks and Recreation Department Outstanding Service Award in 1979.

Born in San Francisco in 1934, Joe graduated from Lowell High School, attended UC Berkeley, and served in the United States Air Force from 1954–1958. He married his sweetheart Sylvia Magnani in 1957. The couple lived in Santa Clara until his job with Kimberly-Clark brought him to Petaluma in 1970.

Joe is survived by his wife Sylvia and their eight sons: Joseph, William, Stephen, Thomas, Mark, David, Paul, and Michael. When he died, he had 16 grandchildren; now there are 17.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia describes her husband as "a wonderful family man" with a "magnetic personality that made him popular with everyone who knew him." I know that description rings true for me and my family. We miss Joseph Verdu's humor and spirit, and I am proud to honor him for his service to the youth of Petaluma.

MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW
EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006, to provide important Federal safety regulations for coal mines.

The number of coal miners who have died so far this year is alarming and has highlighted the pressing need to revise coal miner health safety standards to ensure miners are equipped with state of the art technologies, tracking devices, and sufficient emergency supplies of oxygen.

Our current Federal mine safety regulations are outdated. We need to act now to protect

the health and safety of our coal miners from future tragedies and enact stiffer penalties for flagrant violations of the law. Further, regulations must be enforced. I have cosponsored Representative MILLER's bill, H.R. 5389, the Protecting America's Miners Act, to improve mine safety regulations to help protect miners in the event of an emergency.

The bill before the House today, S. 2803, while not perfect, includes many important provisions to help save lives. The measure is a step in the right direction and is only the beginning of more mine safety reforms to be considered in the House to ensure our mine workers have the safest measures in place.

I represent southwestern and southern Illinois, a region with a rich coal mining history. Coal mining has played a significant roll in transforming and developing the region since the mid-1800s when substantial coal mining in Illinois began. In 2006, the coal industry continues to be a vital component of our economy, and one we are working to strengthen for the future. Improving mine safety standards is an important part of this process began in Illinois, West Virginia, and other coal producing States. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 2803 to affirm our commitment to the hard working men and women who enter coal mines every day.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR DON ROTH
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Don Roth, 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 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARRE TODD

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charre Todd of Crossett, Arkansas who was recently awarded the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award is the Nation's highest honor for teaching in the fields of math and science.

This annual presidential award was established by Congress in 1983. It provides special recognition to outstanding educators in the

fields of mathematics and science for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories, and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools.

I have always held education in the highest regard. As parents, educators, and public officials, we have an obligation, a moral duty, to ensure that students, from pre-school to high school and beyond receive the highest quality education possible. By properly educating our students and providing them with the tools they need in order to become successful adults, they will thrive in today's fast-paced and technological world.

The most important component to our children's education is our teachers. Today, more than ever, our educators face new obstacles and challenges. As the son of public school educators, I have a deep respect and gratitude for all educators and their personal commitment to our children.

America is deeply indebted to top-notch educators, such as Charre Todd, for their continued excellence in the classroom and commitment to our students. Today's teachers shape the very foundation of America's future. I am honored to recognize Mrs. Todd for her outstanding work, and extend my sincere gratitude for her dedication to educating our young people. Mrs. Todd is an inspiration to us all, and I consider it a privilege to serve as her United States Congressman in the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was not present in the Chamber to cast my vote on rollcalls 227 through 234 on Wednesday, June 7.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 229, 230, 231, 233, and 234.

I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 227, 228, and 232.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
WORLD WAR II NAVAJO CODE
TALKER, ROBERT YAZZIE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Yazzie, a remarkable American who served his Nation with great courage and honor as a code talker during World War II. We lost a great Tennessean, veteran and patriot when Mr. Yazzie passed away on Memorial Day—Monday, May 31, 2006—at the age of 81.

Robert H. Yazzie was born on June 1, 1924 in Arizona and grew up in an Episcopal orphanage on a Navajo Indian reservation. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Marines to serve as a code talker in World War II. Yazzie and the other code talkers developed a code based on their native language for military communications in battles with Japan. They used the code in telephone and radio mes-

sages to transmit commands, tactics and troop movements. The Navajo code was used in every Marine assault in the Pacific and played a large role in the U.S. victories at Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and other major battles in the Pacific between 1942 and 1945. It was never once decoded by the Japanese.

After the war, Mr. Yazzie was discharged as a Private First Class in 1945. He married Carrie A. Yazzie of Gainsboro, TN and moved to Nashville in the early 1950's. He raised a family while earning an honest living as a welder. Mr. Yazzie battled diabetes for the last 35 years of his life and suffered heart problems and a blood infection. He passed away peacefully at his home in Madison, TN.

Mr. Yazzie was always very humble about his contributions to the war effort, "We just sent messages," he said in 2003. "We were sending codes on the radio, and we would just talk on the radio using my language."

Because the code talkers were considered such valuable assets to the military after the war, they never received public recognition for their contributions in the Pacific. Finally, in 1992, Mr. Yazzie was among 35 Navajo code talkers to receive official recognition for their service from the Pentagon outside of Washington, D.C. In addition, I had the great honor of awarding Mr. Yazzie a Congressional Silver Medal for Distinguished Service at a special ceremony in Nashville on July 4, 2003.

I am proud to salute the remarkable life and contributions of Mr. Robert Yazzie and his legacy of courage and patriotism that will live on. On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I offer my most sincere condolences to his family—Bruce M. Yazzie, Martha Prater, Marjorie Lowe, Charlie Burris and Harvey Lee Burris—and the loved ones he leaves behind.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006 I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 177 and 178. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both votes.

TRIBUTE TO JACK AND EVON
KECK

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack and Evon Keck who recently pledged \$1 Million to assist in the funding of Silver Cross Hospital's Emergency Department expansion. Jack and Evon Keck are constituents in my 11th Congressional District.

The newly expanded Silver Cross Emergency Department will have the capacity to care for 60,000 patients annually. A new waiting area will also be added for children, with amenities like video games, flat screen TVs with VCR/DVDs and an aquarium that will catch the attention of the children and make the wait a little bit easier for parents.

The Kecks are longtime residents and business leaders in Joliet, Illinois. Jack and Evon attended and met one another at Joliet Township High School. In 1942, only three months after marrying Evon, Jack joined the Seabees and served as a 1st Class Electrician in the South Pacific during WWII for three years. During this time, Evon worked for the phone company. Jack is a former partner of William Keck and Sons Electric Company and the original founder of the Joliet Equipment Corporation, which today is one of the largest motor repair and sales companies in the Midwest.

As a business man, Jack was successful in selling the largest motors ever build to Pacific Steel. It took two railroad cars to transport each motor. He also purchased all the superchargers in existence that were used in B-29 airplanes. General Henry "Hap" Arnold, commander of the Army Air Forces in World War II and the only air commander ever to attain the five-star rank of General of the Army, ordered the purchase of nine car loads to be used in the planes supplying the Berlin Aircraft. At the age of 65, Jack bought the Wisconsin Steel Mill, dismantled it in the middle of winter, and moved it to Joliet to be cleaned and sold.

The Ked's are the proud parents of two children, Ricky and Cynthia. Today, they enjoy spending time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other individuals in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's families and communities.

ONCOLOGY NURSING

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled and kind-hearted providers of quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our nation's cancer care delivery system.

On behalf of the people with cancer and their families in Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District, I would like to specifically acknowledge Diane Otte from Onalaska, Wisconsin for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors and her role as Director of the Cancer Center at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare.

The Oncology Nursing Society has five chapters in my home state of Wisconsin. Located in Edgar, Green Bay, Oak Creek, Pewaukee, and Madison these chapters serve the oncology nurses in the state and support them in their efforts to provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout Wisconsin.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient

care, teaching, research, administration, and education in the field of oncology. The Oncology Nursing Society is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 33,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. I commend Diane and her organization for all that they do in the field of oncology.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specializing in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. According to the American Cancer Society, one in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. This year approximately 26,390 people in Wisconsin will be diagnosed with cancer, and another 10,650 will lose their battles with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Diane Otte for her hard work and leadership on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors. As a nurse and leader in the field, Diane has made it her life's mission to help others and she should be applauded for all she has done.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5449, which would send the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association back to the negotiating table to reach a fair resolution to their contract dispute.

On April 5, 2005, the FAA declared an impasse in its contract talks with NATCA. The current process for resolving an impasse in contract talks between FAA and NATCA allows the FAA to unilaterally impose its contract upon the controllers if the agency sends the contract to Congress and there is no legislative intervention within 60-days. On June 5, the 60-day window ended and the FAA announced that it intended to begin implementing its last contract offer.

Not only is this process unfair, but it creates a level of distrust between the two parties responsible for ensuring a safe and efficient air traffic control system. Congress should not be in the business of negotiating contract disputes. Instead, we should help ensure an equitable resolution to this situation by sending both parties back to the negotiating table and H.R. 5449 does just this.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's dedicated, highly-skilled air traffic controllers are on the front lines of ensuring safety for the millions of Americans who fly each year. Under the unfavorable terms of the FAA's last offer, many of

them would have an incentive to quickly retire. Such a retirement exodus would have serious safety implications for the flying public. It is imperative that Congress acts now and sends the two parties back to the negotiating table.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER STEVEN ORTEGA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Steven Ortega, 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 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE STRONGSVILLE MUSTANGS BASEBALL TEAM—STATE CHAMPS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Strongsville Mustangs Baseball Team, for their spectacular victory as winners of the State of Ohio, 2006 Division I High School Championship.

This well-deserved triumph reflects a committed coaching staff and dedicated players who maintained a steady focus on their collective dream. The individual athleticism, enthusiasm and discipline that reflected from every player also reflected the soul of a team whose faith in themselves and passion for the game proved mightier than the odds of winning.

The sheer talent, drive and ultimate victory that frames the 2006 season of the Strongsville Mustangs, a team once described as the "underdog," stands as a monument to the collective resilience and spirit of our nation itself, and reflects the heart and soul of our greatest American pastime—baseball.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the coaches and players of the Strongsville High School Mustangs as we join in congratulating them on their outstanding victory as State Champions. The individual and collective achievements of the Strongsville Mustangs Baseball Team underscores the meaning of the words "True Champion," and serves to inspire us all with the joy of the game and the knowledge anything is possible, even in the bottom of the ninth, two down, full count—batter up.

ABBAS' ULTIMATUM TO HAMAS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on Hamas' refusal to even come to the table to answer Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' recent ultimatum.

Eleven days ago, President Abbas demanded that Hamas government recognize the 1967 borders with Israel threatening to take the plan to a public referendum. President Abbas' plan would establish a Palestinian State and allow for all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes within Israel. Hamas' refusal to even consider this plan shows just how extreme Hamas is.

Hamas is responsible for the tragic deaths of thousands of innocent Israelis and Americans, including women and children. It has refused to take part in any peace talks, including the Oslo Accords. It has refused to participate in previous, formal governmental operations that have worked with Israel. And it has actively recruited children to accomplish their malevolent and homicidal agenda.

I commend President Abbas for attempting to bridge the gap between the Hamas government and Middle East peace. I stand steadfast in support of our ally, Israel. And I urge the world to recognize Hamas for what it truly is—an organization bent on extremism and hate and a roadblock on the path to peace in the Middle East.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Northwest Missouri State University. Established in the year 1905, Northwest Missouri State University has just marked 100 years of outstanding service in higher education.

Beginning as a two-year Normal School for teacher education, Northwest Missouri State University now is a nationally and internationally recognized university offering bachelor and master degree programs. Beginning in 1984, Northwest Missouri State University established a culture of quality and has won the Missouri Quality Award three times.

An innovative leader, the first electronic campus at a public university in the United States was founded at Northwest Missouri State University in 1987. Northwest Missouri State University is a national leader in alternative fuels, having put in place a wood pellet system that has produced the University's own heating and cooling for more than 20 years, and providing a significant savings to the University and the State of Missouri.

Among public colleges and universities, Northwest Missouri State University maintains one of the highest graduation rates at more than 60 percent. Students at Northwest Missouri State University consistently rank the university at the top of student satisfaction measurements. Realizing the need for more

accessible education to all, Northwest Missouri State University established the American Dream Grant in 2004, the only program of its kind in the United States that provides students who qualify with free tuition, room and board, computer and textbooks.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Northwest Missouri State University, an exceptional institution in Missouri's Sixth Congressional District. The Northwest Missouri State University's commitment to excellence is inspiring, and I am honored to represent so many of its fine employees, students, and alumni in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENCE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Community Resources for Independence (CRI) as this organization celebrates 30 years of assisting people with disabilities in Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties.

CRI was founded as a non-profit organization in 1976 to advance the rights of people with disabilities to equal justice, access, opportunity and participation. From its humble beginnings with a single office in one county, it has grown to an organization with three offices serving more than 2,500 people in four counties with an annual operating budget of \$1.5 million.

CRI has enriched the lives of its clients by working with individuals, cities and counties to improve access for persons with disabilities in their work, study, play, housing and worship and received national recognition for its work in 2000.

The organization's Transition Project assists people with disabilities in moving from institutional to independent living. It is the only program successfully serving homeless disabled individuals in Sonoma County.

The Deaf Services Program provides advocacy, communication assistance, community education, independent living skills, peer counseling and accessibility equipment resources.

The Disability Law Clinic has been instrumental in raising disability awareness in the community by working with employers to support reasonable accommodations in the workplace and by protecting the rights of its clients to be participating members in the community.

2006 is also a milestone year as it marked the inauguration of CRI's first wheelchair basketball team, The Redwood Rollers. Naturally they won their first game.

In work and in play, Community Resources for Independence has become an invaluable organization in my Congressional District and it is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge and honor them as they celebrate 30 years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF LE MOYNE COLLEGE MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the Le Moyne College Men's Lacrosse team on winning the 2006 Division II National Championship. Their 12-5 victory over Dowling College capped off an 18-0 campaign for the Le Moyne Dolphins, and earned them their second Division II national title in 3 years. Le Moyne's national title efforts were spurred by the best D-II defense in the Nation. The Dolphins also had a total of 8 players earning All-America honors from the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I congratulate Head Coach Dan Sheehan, Assistant Coaches Brian Datellas, Kevin Michaud, Eric MacCaull, and the players of the Le Moyne College Men's Lacrosse team:

Jared Corcoran, Travis Tarr, Alex Bily, Markus Fallico, Brian Cost, Jason Longo, Chris Doran, Brian Griffin, Nate Evans, Chris Moore, Matt Juriga, Matt Emerson, Mike Recor, Jordan Witt, Tim MacLean;

Brian Welch, Ted Rund, Ed Street, Mike McDonald, Doug McIve, Pete Gibbons, Blake Gale, Ryan Lewis, Tom Donahue, Kevin Kohl, Brad Wolken, Jim Fiacco, Matt Crandall, Marc Cizenski, Mike McLaughlin;

Dan Brown, Jeff Lewis, Craig Rosecrans, Tyler Hill, Russ Oechsle, Andrew Carducci, Rob Poole, Mike Lindstrom, Mike Malone, Matt Cassalia, Dan Ziegler, Pat O'Donnell, Pat McPartlin, and Matt Foster.

HONORING EUGENIA BULNES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Eugenia Maria Bulnes, the Principal of the Sister Carolyn Learning Center. Principal Bulnes is retiring on June 9, 2006 after 8 years as principal and over 40 years as an educator and mentor to the youth of South Florida.

Eugenia, arrived in our great country in 1961 after fleeing the Castro regime. Since then, she found her life's calling working with children. In fact, Eugenia has spent the majority of her life, mentoring and guiding youth.

Throughout her career she has established herself as a selfless leader, and her dedication to her field is unquestionable. It is the perseverance and compassion of people like Eugenia that enables our country to continue to prosper and grow.

I am grateful for the tremendous diligence and dedication Eugenia exhibited on behalf of the student body at Carolyn Learning Center. Eugenia's dedication to enriching the lives of others is truly admirable. The passion she exerted towards her profession is not only commendable, but inspirational as well.

Once again, I commend Eugenia for her distinguished career as an educator and I applaud her for all the tremendous successes you have accomplished throughout the years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of May 19, 2006 the House voted on a procedural motion to H.R. 5385, the Fiscal 2007 Military Construction-VA Appropriations Act. On House rollcall vote No. 173, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNITION FOR REV. BOB
RUSSELL**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the career and service of the Reverend Bob Russell, who is retiring this month after forty years of ministry at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Throughout his time at Southeast, Rev. Russell has worked diligently to follow his faith in God wherever it might lead him. His contribution to the Louisville community is unparalleled and his impact on individual lives is immeasurable.

As a young man in Pennsylvania, Rev. Russell dreamed of coaching high school basketball. However, life would hold a different plan for him. During his senior year of high school, he felt a call into ministry. He enrolled in a seminary, graduating from Cincinnati Bible Seminary in 1965.

On June 12, 1966, Rev. Russell delivered his first sermon as pastor of a nascent Southeast Christian Church. Only four years prior, Southeast was founded with seventy-seven charter members. At the time of Rev. Russell's arrival, the church had reached a membership of 120. Within two years of his first sermon, the church had more than doubled to nearly 300 members. On Easter Sunday 1976, the church hosted 1,000 worshippers for the first time. Fourteen years later in 1990, 10,000 people worshipped at Southeast on Easter Sunday. And the church set its current record of 29,424 on Easter weekend 2004 over the course of five services.

Rev. Russell's career is not, measured solely by explosive church growth, but by the many ways the church under his leadership has expanded to meet the needs of our community. The church reaches its community through ministries in counseling, disaster relief, and prison support, among others. The Southeast Outlook newspaper began publication in 1995. Rev. Russell can also be heard nationally on his syndicated radio program, *The Living Word*.

Throughout his career of four decades in ministry, Rev. Bob Russell has strived to follow his faith in God and live a life of service to the Louisville community. We as a city have been blessed to have Rev. Russell among us for so many years. His loyalty to God, his family, his church, and our city has not gone unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude for Rev. Russell and congratulate him on a lifetime in ministry and service that

will continue to touch Louisville even after his retirement.

TRIPLE CROWN WINNER
WHIRLAWAY AND THE ARMED
SERVICES**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding civilian support of our Armed Services that was embodied by the Triple Crown winning-horse, Whirlaway, during the beginning of World War II. As a direct result of the fundraising enabled by the popularity and talent of Whirlaway, many USO Clubs around the country were established. As a congressionally chartered, nonprofit organization, that support U.S. troops and their families wherever they serve, the USO has also recognized the contribution that Whirlaway aided in the early 1940s.

Whirlaway accomplished some impressive feats as a sports figure, including the still-unbroken record for the fastest furlong ever run in the Kentucky Derby. As a war hero, Whirlaway was an irreplaceable symbol of unity and mutual support between our civilian population and the men and women who serve our country.

As we remember the brave soldiers who have served our country in uniform this Memorial Day, we should also remember the inspiring stories of those civilians who have demonstrated extraordinary support in the past.

May God bless our men and women in uniform and all civilians who remember them on this Memorial Day.

TRIBUTE TO MINISINK HOOK &
LADDER COMPANY #1 ON 100
YEARS OF SERVICE**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, volunteer service is vital in the basic framework of our nation. Without those sacrificing their time, energy, and efforts for the benefit of others we could not advance as a society.

It is in this notion of service that those in need are given opportunity. It is because of people who dedicate their life to helping others that our communities flourish and lives are changed.

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in thousands of communities with the dedicated service provided by volunteer firefighters. Their reward is not monetary, but is in the lives they change, people they save and those they protect day in and day out.

On June 10, 2006, the Minisink Hook & Ladder Company #1 will celebrate 100 years of courageous service to the people of Orange County, New York. On behalf of the people of the 19th Congressional District, in recognition of a century of service I proudly commemorate this momentous achievement. I congratulate and wish the Minisink Hook & Ladder Company continued success in serving the public and keeping people safe.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED
STATES CODE**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5449 changes the rules under which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) negotiates with Federal employees unions, such as the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), to make the FAA abide by the exact same process that other government agencies do when they negotiate with Federal employees unions. Contrary to the claims of its opponents, H.R. 5449 does not allow NATCA to indefinitely prolong negotiations. H.R. 5449 allows the FAA to act to end negotiations and bring their case before a Federal mediation board who has power to resolve the dispute. H.R. 5449 would prevent the FAA from unilaterally imposing a contract on the air traffic controllers. In contrast, the current system may provide the FAA with the opportunity to drag out negotiations, so it can ultimately declare an impasse and impose a contract. Thus, the changes made in H.R. 5449 seem reasonable.

Some people, including many House of Representatives members with whom I usually agree, are claiming that H.R. 5449 will cost American taxpayers billions of dollars. This claim is based on an assumption that the final result of the mediation process established by H.R. 5449 will be significantly more costly to the taxpayer than the contract the FAA will impose on the controllers if H.R. 5449 fails to pass. However, under H.R. 5449, the dispute will be resolved by a Federal mediation panel whose members are appointed by the president. I am skeptical that a presidentially appointed mediation board will give an exorbitant package to NATCA, especially since the difference between the FAA's current proposal and the NATCA's last offer is less than a billion dollars. It is true that a future mediation panel may be populated by people appointed by an administration more friendly to the air traffic controllers than the current administration, but it is also possible that a future Congress would use its leverage in the current process to force the FAA to accept contracts tilted in favor of the NATCA. We should not judge procedural issues based on uncertain predictions about results.

Some opponents of H.R. 5449 complain that the air traffic controllers are overpaid. However, since the air traffic control system is government controlled and government financed, the wages of air traffic controllers are not set by the market. Instead, these wages are set by political and bureaucratic fiat. Absent a market, it is impossible to say the air traffic controllers' wages are too high or too low. In fact, given the importance of air traffic control, it is possible that, in a free market, some air traffic controllers may have higher incomes than they do now. One thing I can say for sure is that air traffic controllers would still have their jobs if the Federal government were limited to its constitutional functions since air traffic controllers perform a function that would be necessary in a free market.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5449 reasonably changes the process under which the FAA negotiates with Federal employees unions. H.R. 5449 does not favor one party

over another, and, contrary to the claims of its opponents, H.R. 5449 does not preordain the conclusion of the negotiations between the FAA and NATCA.

MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH BY
STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH M.
DIMOND

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the following Memorial Day speech into the RECORD. It was made by Staff Sergeant Joseph M. Dimond. I am sure that you, and all who hear these words, will be moved by this unforgettable tribute to those who have fallen in the service of their country:

MEMORIAL DAY

Good morning and happy Memorial Day!

Memorial Day means many different things to many different people. To some it means BBQ's and beer, to some its just another long weekend to relax, to some it's the beginning of summer, but to people like me, and I'm guessing people like you since you are here, it means a lot more!

Since I was a boy, Memorial Day has always had a special meaning to me. I remember at 8 and 9 years old following my father, a Korean War Vet, around East Lansdowne and Upper Darby while he and his fellow American Legion brothers fired off 21 gun salutes at all the memorials. I would run around collecting all the shells from the rifles and save them as my own little memorial. Afterwards, we would put flags on the graves of all the Veterans in Fernwood Cemetery. I'm not even sure if I understood completely what we were honoring, I just knew it was very important! I knew, that for some reason, every time I heard TAPS or the National Anthem played, I would get teary eyed, but I don't think I ever really grasped the importance of it all.

Unfortunately, over the past year I had the chance to find out first hand what it all meant, why I would cry, why I felt the way I've been feeling for my entire life. I have experienced many difficult times in my life, but nothing could prepare me for the last year! You see, I was in charge of security for the bomb squad for the entire city of Fallujah. While over there, we dismantled 362 roadside bombs and, unfortunately, got hit by some too.

One of the many downfalls of being with the bomb squad in the most violent city in Iraq is that whenever an American or Iraqi soldier is killed by a roadside bomb or suicide bomber, we have to go and make sure all of the ordnance that is in the vehicles when they blow up are stabilized, and removed before the mortuary affairs people can come in and remove the bodies, so long story short, we were forced to work around the bodies of every ally killed by a bomb in Fallujah and the surrounding area. While doing this, my team had to remain calm, keep our heads and not get tied up in what we were seeing, because the bomb squad was a huge target, and I needed to do my best to keep them safe while they focused on their jobs. We were successful most of the time, but did have some bad luck too. Since October 15th, six of my very good friends were killed on the streets of Fallujah, five of which happened while I was there, all in separate incidents. One happened a week after I left Iraq, while my friend John was finishing his last week of a 9 month tour.

These men were all heroes! Whatever your politics, whether you believe we should be in this war or not, whether you are Republican or Democrat, we are all Americans! And I want to make sure you all know this: every single soldier, sailor, airman, and marine over there is there for you! They all feel they are doing what they have to do to make life better for you, our kids and me. I'm not a politician, and this isn't the time or place for politics, but the #1 question I've been asked in the past 2 months since I've been home is "Do I think we should be there?" Well, my answer to that is very simple, I don't know if we should have gone over there, but I, like these men we honor today, was asked to go so I went. I'm an enlisted man, and leave that to the people that sit behind their desks and make the big decisions. What I do know as a grunt on the ground, looking these people in the eye, day after day, is that I've never seen or imagined the hate, evil or torture that man is capable of until now! I also have no doubt that these people that I was fighting hate you, they hate all of us because we believe in a different God, they hate us because we allow our daughters and sisters to walk around malls in belly shirts, they hate us because we are different from them, they hate us because we are free!

In an America filled with violent movies, video games and violent everything else, we've all become a little desensitized. I can't tell you how many times I've been asked by naive people, "How many people have you killed?" Like it is a cool thing or something. Only someone who hasn't seen or done the things I have would ask such a question with a smile on their face. And I try to be understanding of the fact that they haven't seen it, but at the same time I feel a responsibility to let them know that there is nothing cool about people losing their lives. Whether they are wrong or deserved it or not, there will be a family mourning, somewhere.

More importantly I feel the responsibility to explain to those people who may not know better, that regardless of what Hollywood may want you to believe, there is no glory in a twenty-something year old man dying violently in the dirt thousands of miles away from his home, away from family, and the people he loves. It is important to me that people recognize and understand how devastating it is when an American, a friend, dies in such a violent way. The hurt and grief one feels when witnessing a twenty-year-old kid, who you personally trained, die in a hellhole thousands of miles away from his home is indescribable! Promising to tell a man's unborn child that her daddy loved her while he bleeds to death because it is too dangerous for a helicopter to come into the city to medivac him is something no human being should have to ever experience. Listening to a friend ask as he is dying if you think God will forgive him for all the things he had to do over here is not glamorous in any way, shape or form.

But most importantly, I feel a responsibility to explain that these men that we honor today were not looking for Glory or medals or memorials! They were all just doing what they felt was right, they were men doing the job that nobody wants! Living in misery, so the people they love could live in happiness! Dying horrible deaths, so the ones they love can live on in peace! That is why they are heroes, and that is why they deserve our thoughts, time and respect at least for this one day of the year!

There is a saying in the war fighting community that says:

"We are the unwanted, doing the impossible, for the ungrateful." Well, now that I'm moving on to the civilian sector again, I'm here to say that not everyone is ungrateful my brothers!

I've seen enough bloodshed for twenty lifetimes! And I pray for peace just as every true warrior prays for peace!

For me, every day is Memorial Day, and it is because of men like these:

Mark Adams, killed by a roadside bomb at age 24, on October 15th 2005.

Joel Dameron, killed by a roadside bomb at age 27 on 30 Oct 2005, his wife has since had their baby girl.

Michael Presley, killed by a suicide bomber at age 21 on Dec 14th 2005.

Ryan McCurdey, killed at age 20 by a sniper while dragging a wounded Marine to safety on 5 Jan 2006.

Nick Wilson, killed at age 25 by a secondary bomb while dismantling another bomb on 12 Feb 2006. He had 4 days left in the country.

John Fry, killed at age 28 by a roadside bomb on 8 March 2006, 8 days after I left the country, and 6 before he was leaving.

So, today, when you are barbecuing or spending time relaxing with your family, please take a minute and remember these men who sacrificed so much, and remember their families who are living without husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. And if you see someone who doesn't take that time, remind them of all that is done for them!

I'm not much of a speaker, and I'm not sure if I did these men justice, but when I was asked to speak I felt like it was the least I could do to remind people that these men aren't just numbers to follow on the news, but men with families and lives that they gave up for you and me. I have no doubt that I will see these men's faces in my sleep every night, and think of them at least once a day for the rest of my life. I'm just asking you to take a moment out of one day a year to remember them and the many other Americans that died before them.

God Bless, and have a great Memorial Day!

KIRSTEN SHORTRIDGE—GATORADE
NATIONAL GIRLS SOFTBALL
PLAYER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Kirsten Shortridge for being selected as the 2006 Gatorade National Girls Softball Player of the Year.

Of the more than three-hundred and fifty-thousand student girl athletes across the country, only one person is chosen to receive this award. The honor, which also factors in academic achievements and overall character, has been awarded for 20 years to athletes in ten different sports.

Kirsten is batting .554 with two home runs, eight triples and twenty-five RBIs. In 181 innings she has pitched 365 strikeouts, 21 shutouts and eight no-hitters, including three perfect games.

She maintains a 3.5 grade point average, is a member of the Circle of Friends, and is a lunch buddy, library buddy, peer mentor, volunteers at Northwood Church with the Revive program, and also volunteers for Special Olympics.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Kirsten Shortridge for her efforts and for her success in softball and her academics. Her dedication and commitment serve as an inspiration to all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND SERVICE OF MAYOR LORIN
GRISSET

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man.

Mr. Lorin Griset was a much-beloved mayor of Santa Ana, California. Elected in 1969, he presided over the city during a period of great transition and strove to promote tolerance and understanding between racial groups, despite the tensions of the time.

Lorin Griset's commitment to his fellow man was born out of his experiences as a young soldier. He served valiantly during World War II, and despite suffering great hardship as a POW in Poland, he returned home and dedicated his life to service.

Whether he was organizing an appearance by the Reverend Billy Graham at Anaheim Stadium or serving as a trustee of Biola University, he always remained true to his faith and values that defined his character.

Even after leaving politics, Mr. Griset remained dedicated to faith and public service, teaching Sunday school and serving as a deacon of Calvary Church. His lifelong dedication was recently been recognized by the Santa Ana Unified School District, which has decided to name a local school after him.

Lorin Griset has been an inspiration to the people he loved and served so well. He will truly be missed.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5521) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Chairman, I had intended to rise again today to offer an amendment to cut the level of funding in this appropriations bill by 1 percent but the committee rose before I could get here. This amount equals \$30.3 million.

I have offered many amendments like this over the past several years. I understand the difficulty appropriators must have in narrowing down the requests from members and the administration for money, and I applaud them for bringing us a bill that reflects an amount that is less than that which the administration has requested for FY07.

However, this appropriations bill still reflects a budget increase of nearly \$110 million over last year's Legislative Branch budget. I strongly believe that this appropriations bill, as well as the projected deficit for next year, is still much too large.

The Capitol Visitor's Center, which receives funding in this bill, is long past its deadline and has been grossly over budget. This is a prime example of our inability to effectively control spending, even on projects in our own backyard. It is projects such as this that have greatly contributed to our Nation's lack of trust in their government's ability to manage spending responsibly.

Fiscal responsibility should start in this chamber, and by voting for this amendment, you are stating for the record your belief that the budget deficit is much too large and that the American taxpayers should not be burdened in the future because we can not control our spending today.

ZARQAWI IS DEAD

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last night, at 6:15 p.m. local time, our special operation forces, using Iraqi tips and intelligence, executed the most wanted terrorist in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Mary Anne Weaver, a reporter for Atlantic magazine, traveled to Zarqawi's hometown and spoke with the people who watched him grow up. "Everyone that I spoke with readily acknowledged that as a teenager al-Zarqawi had been a bully and a thug, a bootlegger and a heavy drinker, and even, allegedly, a pimp in Zarqa's underworld. He was disruptive, constantly involved in brawls. When he was fifteen, . . . he participated in a robbery of a relative's home, during which the relative was killed."

Moving from street thug with an arrest record for violence and imprisonment for sexual assault into a profession, Zarqawi obtained a job as a video-store clerk, from which he was quickly fired. After losing this job, he undertook his first of many trips into Afghanistan, where he found justification and an outlet for his violent nature through Islamic jihad. In 1994, Zarqawi was imprisoned for possession of grenades in the basement of his home. It was during his fifteen year imprisonment that he built his following, and after his release he commenced his litany of terror acts.

To see the most compelling evidence of this man's evil, look at the record of his actions.

Beginning in 2003:

October 28th, Lawrence Foley, United States diplomat and administrator of aid programs in Jordan, is gunned down outside his home; August 19th, top U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and 23 others are killed in a truck bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Iraq;

And then in 2004:

March 2nd, He orders coordinated explosions at Shiite mosques in Karbala and Baghdad, killing 181 people; May 11th, Zarqawi beheads Nicholas Berg, a Pennsylvania engineer; June 22nd, South Korean hostage Kim Sun-il is beheaded; June 29th, Georgi Lazov, 30 years old, and Ivaylo Kepov, 32 years old, are kidnapped and beheaded; August 2nd, Murat Yuce of Turkey is executed on video;

September 13th, Durmus Kumdereli is beheaded; September 14th, 47 Iraqis waiting in lines for jobs are killed by a Zarqawi car bomb attack; September 16th, Kenneth Bigley, Jack Hensley, and Eugene Armstrong are kidnapped and beheaded; September 30th, 35 children and seven adults are murdered by Zarqawi's bombs as U.S. soldiers hand out candy at the opening of a new sewage treatment plant in Baghdad; October 30th, Shosei Koda, 24 years old, is beheaded.

In 2005:

February 28th, 125 Iraqi National Guard recruits are murdered by a Zarqawi follower in a suicide attack; November 9th, Zarqawi coordinates three suicide bombings of hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60 people, including a wedding party.

Zarqawi received judgment for his actions last night, and his reign of terror and violence is over. Yet, while we are pleased that this man's murderous influence in Iraq is over, we must not view his death as a moment to rest in our efforts, or as a sign that our job in Iraq is finished. According to the article in Atlantic magazine this week, Mary Weaver's contact, a high level Jordanian intelligence official, "If Zarqawi is captured or killed, the Iraq insurgency will go on." Mary Weaver also interviewed a man who had witnessed the fervor of support among a radical fringe in Iraq. "He [a young boy] was from Saudi Arabia and had just turned thirteen. I noticed him in the crowd at a recruiting center near the Syrian-Iraqi frontier. People would come and register in the morning, then cross the border in the afternoon by bus. I first saw him at the registration desk. The recruiters refused to take him because he was so young, and he started to cry. I went back later in the day, and this same small guy had sneaked aboard the bus. When they discovered him, he started to shout 'Allahu Akhbar!'—'God is most great!' They carried, him off. He had \$12,000 in his pocket—expense money his family had given him before he set off. 'Take it all,' he pleaded. 'Please, just let me do jihad.'"

In this war on terror, unlike a traditional state to state war, we must accept that the death of a leader does not end the conflict. On the contrary, the death of such a high profile figure could provoke isolated terror cells to increase violent attacks. We may well see a rise in insurgent attacks in the coming weeks, and we must continue our intelligence efforts in the area to locate and put pressure on these cells, and support our military as they pursue and eliminate them. Persistent hearts will achieve this victory, and I encourage the American people to steel themselves for this continued battle with evil, and to support our military as they bring about a free and stable Iraq.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM A. EAGAN
UPON BEING NAMED
SOUTHTOWNS "DEMOCRAT OF
THE YEAR"

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize William "Bill" Eagan, who

is recognized as Western New York's Southtowns "Democrat of the Year" for his selfless dedication to his community and commitment to public service.

Bill was born and raised in the City of Lackawanna into a family that has deep roots in the Democratic Party. His father was the Democratic Chairman in Lackawanna for 16 years. Following in the traditions that his father established, Bill became an active member of the Democratic Party at a young age. Bill was involved in many elections and proudly participated in the Presidential Election of John F. Kennedy.

Bill and his wife Patty moved to the Town of Boston in 1982. Just three years later, Bill Eagan became a leader in the Democratic Party when Former Erie County Democratic Chairman Joseph Crangle recruited him to become Democratic Chairman in the Town of Boston. Bill proudly accepted this responsibility and effectively served in this capacity from 1985 to 1990 and again from 1994 to present. Under Mr. Eagan's leadership as Chairman, the Democratic enrollment in the Town of Boston has increased by over fifty percent since 1985.

In 2002, Mr. Eagan was elected Town of Boston Supervisor. During his first term he earned the trust and respect of the town residents and was re-elected to the position in 2005. Mr. Eagan is the first Democratic Supervisor to be elected in over 40 years and then re-elected to another term. Mr. Eagan's success is a testament to his tireless efforts on behalf of the community that he serves.

As Town of Boston's Supervisor, Democratic Chairman, and member of the Erie County Democratic Executive Committee, Mr. Eagan has set an example of leadership for his fellow Democrats to emulate. For the first time in 12 years, the Democratic Party holds the majority of the Boston Town Board. Additionally, Bill was instrumental in electing the first Town of Boston Democratic Highway Superintendent and two Councilmen.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize Bill Eagan, a man I am proud to have as a colleague in Western New York government, a friend and a public servant deserving of the title "Democrat of the Year."

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE P. FORD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to a man of monumental significance in my hometown of Flint Michigan, Lawrence P. Ford. Larry is retiring as the President of the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce after 30 years of service and will be feted at a dinner on June 16 in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

When Larry Ford became the Chief Executive Officer of the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce the organization had 435 members. During his tenure the membership has grown to 1900. He was instrumental in starting several organizations entrusted with the advancement of business interests and economic growth in Genesee County. These organizations include the Women's Business Council, the Powerlink Program, the ATHENA Program, Business Education Council, Leadership

Flint, Visitors and Convention Bureau, Economic Growth Alliance, Inventor's Council, Young Inventor's Program, the SCORE program, the Small Business Development Center, Katherine Stevens Foundation, the first business Trade Show, and the Business Awards Program including the C.S. Mott Citizen of the Year Award and the Mass Mutual Blue Chip A ward.

Interspersed with these activities, Larry guided the Chamber and business community to take action on significant events that occurred in the community over the past 30 years. Larry has been a true visionary for the mid-Michigan area. He has been at the forefront to develop partnerships between the business, government, education, labor, and consumer sectors of Flint and illuminating our common stake in our community's future development. Through his hard work the Flint area has made an in depth examination of its potential and scrutinized ways to build on its existing strengths. Among the many successes he has helped achieve over the years, the growth and modernization of Flint Bishop International Airport stand out.

The article written by Larry titled "Don't just survive—thrive!" appearing in the Winter 2004 Execlink, outlines a program for success as the President/CEO of a Chamber of Commerce. His advice includes learning from others, never coasting, always look for a way to accomplish the goal, do not believe your press clippings, and enjoy what you do. Larry Ford lives his own philosophy. His wisdom can be applied to life in general and is essential for anyone seeking to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to one of the giants of the Flint community. His influence and impact on my hometown is enormous. During the many years I have known Larry he is always civil, patient, analytical and incisive. I value his counsel, and his commitment to the people of Flint. As a life-long resident and business leader, his insight has helped me over the years. I hope that he has as much joy from his retirement as he has had from his work and I wish him the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four students from West Salem High School in Salem, Oregon. These four students—Stefanie Gille, Amy Hafer, Tyler Klarr, and John Mai—won the Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision program, Grades 10–12 category. Their winning project, "The Human Touch," is a prosthetic limb that integrates e-skin, skin-grafting techniques and nerve regeneration tubes to allow amputees to sense the world through artificial skin. Microprocessors translate texture, pressure, temperature, and vibration into sensations detected by the patient.

The inspiration for these students was Jim Henry, a special education teacher at West Salem who is an amputee. He challenged them to develop a design that would allow him and other amputees to regain the ability to feel

objects with their prosthesis. With this as their focus, these students embarked on a year-long research project that culminated with them being recognized by the ExploraVision program as having the best project in a nationwide competition.

ExploraVision is a competition for students in grades K–12 from the United States and Canada. The purpose of the competition is to encourage students to combine their imaginations with the tools of science to create and explore a vision of a future technology. Students work in groups, along with a team coach, and select a technology or an aspect of a technology that is relevant to their lives. They explore what the technology does, how it works, and how, when, and why it was invented. The students must then project into the future what the technology could be like 20 years from now. Examples of projects from this year's winners include boots that convert electrical energy to heat to keep feet warm in cold weather and an asthma sensor monitoring system.

Earlier this week in the Science Committee, we wrestled with how to get more students interested in math, science, engineering, and technology. These students and their fellow award winners suggest to me that the cause is not lost, that it is possible to get today's students to love math and science. Today's students are tomorrow's scientists, mathematicians, and engineers and with students like Stefanie, Amy, Tyler, and John, the United States will continue to lead the world in technology and innovation.

CONGRATULATING DR. ALLAN ALSON FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF SERVICE AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 202 IN EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I am proud to pay tribute to Dr. Allan Alson upon his retirement as Superintendent of Evanston Township High School (ETHS). Over the past 16 years at ETHS, two as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and 14 as Superintendent, Dr. Alson has served the Evanston community with honor and distinction.

Dr. Alson's vision, courage, and commitment to give each young person the gift of a quality education has helped make Evanston a more unified, respectful, and tolerant community. Under Dr. Alson's leadership, Evanston Township High School has advanced its reputation as one of the very best high schools in America. In addition to promoting academic success, Dr. Alson's long list of accomplishments also includes improvements in the arts, athletics and extracurricular programs.

Dr. Alson has helped unite community resources and build diverse partnerships to solve community problems and enhance the educational experience of ETHS students. During Dr. Alson's service, Evanston Township High School has forged partnerships with the city of Evanston, its business and health-

care communities, and Northwestern and National-Louis Universities. Examples of effective collaborations spearheaded by Dr. Alson's administration include an award-winning School Based Health Center, student workforce training, and an interagency consortium for youth advocacy.

Throughout his tenure as Superintendent of Evanston Township High School, Dr. Alson has made the achievement of students of color an essential goal. In 1999, Dr. Alson founded the Minority Student Achievement Network, a national consortium of 25 urban-suburban districts devoted to improving the academic achievement of students of color. Dr. Alson has helped foster a culture of excellence and a climate of high expectations for all students. While more work remains to be done, Evanston Township High School has seen the rate of college attendance for students of color rise from 65 percent to almost 80 percent.

Dr. Alson will long be remembered with gratitude for his tireless efforts to promote academic excellence and social justice. However, most importantly, he can look about the community and see a legacy made of the thousands of young people, parents, teachers, administrators and community members whose lives he has touched. It is a legacy for which he can be immensely proud.

In honor of his legacy of service, I offer Dr. Alson this United States flag as a symbol of appreciation, esteem and good wishes. This flag was flown over the United States Capitol building in Washington, DC in honor of an outstanding educator, advocate, true public servant, and my valued personal friend.

On behalf of the community to which he has given so much, I congratulate Dr. Alson and offer him my best wishes for many years of health, happiness, and continued success.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, POLICE CHIEF RON MILLER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Kansas City, Kansas, Police Chief Ron Miller, who recently announced his retirement after 34 years of service with the department, including the last six years as chief.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Miller has focused the police department's crime fighting efforts on—in his words—"guns, drugs and violent crime." Under his command, the department maintained its national accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, where it first achieved that status in 1993 and was designated a flagship agency by them in 2004.

A Kansas City, Kansas, native who attended Central Missouri State University, Chief Miller focused his department's efforts on community policing and expanded community partnerships. As City Administrator, Dennis Hays said upon announcing Chief Miller's retirement, "Ron has been a great leader for the Police Department and the community has benefited from his knowledge and ability. Ron is a dedicated professional . . ."

As U.S. Representative for the Third Congressional District, I have had numerous opportunities to work closely with Chief Miller during his tenure and I wholeheartedly en-

dorse Dennis Hays' tribute to him. Chief Ron Miller was a dedicated, professional, public servant who served his community with distinction. His presence in the Chief's office will be sorely missed in the months ahead, I am sure, but I join with all Kansas Citizens in wishing him well in his richly-deserved retirement.

THE HOMESTATE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT NUMBER 1 LEGISLATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will facilitate the timely and seamless transfer of the Homestake Hydroelectric Project Number 1 from the Barrick Gold Corporation to the City of Spearfish, South Dakota.

This hydroelectric facility, originally constructed to provide electricity for a gold mine in the Black Hills of South Dakota, has operated continuously since 1912. The mine recently closed and the city of Spearfish acquired the project with plans to operate it to both generate power and benefit downstream water users.

When the city acquired the project, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asserted jurisdiction, based on a finding that a pre-1920 federal right-of-way grant which authorized the occupancy of federal lands by the project, had expired. This project has been operating for more than 90 years under a 1909 right-of-way allowing the project to occupy U.S. Forest Service land in the Black Hills National Forest. The project had never previously been subject to FERC jurisdiction under the Federal Power Act and the U.S. Forest Service maintains that the right-of-way continues to be valid.

The legislation accomplishes three goals. First, the legislation strikes a balance between the various and important water uses of Spearfish Creek—agricultural irrigation use, power generation, recreation, aesthetic and to protect a unique and historic trout fishery.

Second, it authorizes the United States Geological Study to examine the hydrology of the watershed to ensure that future management of the stream is based on sound science.

Third, it enables the City of Spearfish, South Dakota, to assume operation of the facility without having to undertake the lengthy and complex federal hydroelectric licensing process operated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This legislation would enable the facility to continue operating as it has since its construction. It also recognizes that the City of Spearfish and the State of South Dakota are well equipped—as they have been for the past century—to appropriately manage the flows of Spearfish Creek.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 6 and June 7 and as a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229 and 230. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on

rollcall votes Nos. 226 and 229, and "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 223, 224, 225, 227, 228, and 230.

A CALL FOR SHARED SACRIFICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an op-ed piece, entitled Consider the Living, published May 29, 2006 by Bob Herbert of the New York Times. Herbert eloquently points out the hypocrisy of the Bush administration on the issue of the war in Iraq. Herbert declares that the fastest way to end this war is to "start sending the children of the well-to-do to Baghdad, and start raising taxes to pay of the many hundreds of billions that the war is costing." The claim that chaos would ensue if we pull out of Iraq is just an excuse to continue the reckless actions of the current administration. Recalling President Bush's challenge to the insurgents to "bring 'em on," Herbert counters that we have lost nearly 2,500 Americans in the war and tens of thousands of Iraqis, and they are still "bringing 'em on." The ones suffering the most in the war are the non-combatants, Iraqi residents who are "like sheep in a slaughter farm." Even after three years parts of Western Iraq are not under U.S. control. Is this what we are looking forward to? Is the next three years going to cost us 2,500 more American lives as well as billions more of taxpayers money? Not to mention that casualties on the Iraqi side and the atrocities that are byproducts of war.

My colleagues, I join Mr. Herbert in urging you to take decisive measures to bring a swift end to this fiasco. Let us stop this needless waste of lives.

[From the New York Times, May 29, 2006]

CONSIDER THE LIVING

(By Bob Herbert)

Pretty soon this war in Iraq will have lasted as long as our involvement in World War II, with absolutely no evidence of any sort of conclusion in sight.

The point of Memorial Day is to honor the service and the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in the nation's wars. But I suggest that we take a little time today to consider the living.

Look around and ask yourself if you believe that stability or democracy in Iraq—or whatever goal you choose to assert as the reason for this war—is worth the life of your son or your daughter, or your husband or your wife, or the co-worker who rides to the office with you in the morning, or your friendly neighbor next door.

Before you gather up the hot dogs and head out to the barbecue this afternoon, look in a mirror and ask yourself honestly if Iraq is something you would be willing to die for.

There is no shortage of weaselly politicians and misguided commentators ready to tell us that we can't leave Iraq—we just can't. Chaos will ensue. Maybe even a civil war. But what they really mean is that we can't leave as long as the war can continue to be fought by other people's children, and as long as we can continue to put this George W. Bush-inspired madness on a credit card.

Start sending the children of the well-to-do to Baghdad, and start raising taxes to payoff the many hundreds of billions that the war is costing, and watch how quickly this tragic fiasco is brought to an end.

At an embarrassing press conference last week, President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain looked for all the world like a couple of hapless schoolboys

who, while playing with fire, had set off a conflagration that is still raging out of control. Their recklessness has so far cost the lives of nearly 2,500 Americans and tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis, many of them children.

Among the regrets voiced by the president at the press conference was his absurd challenge to the insurgents in 2003 to "bring 'em on." But Mr. Bush gave no hint as to when the madness might end.

How many more healthy young people will we shovel into the fires of Iraq before finally deciding it's time to stop?

How many dead are enough?

There is no good news coming out of Iraq. Sabrina Tavernise of The Times recently wrote: "In the latest indication of the crushing hardships weighing on the lives of Iraqis, increasing portions of the middle class seem to be doing everything they can to leave the country."

The middle class is all but panicked at the inability of the Iraqi government or American forces to quell the relentless violence. Ms. Tavernise quoted a businessman who is planning to move to Jordan: "We're like sheep at a slaughter farm."

Iraqis continue to be terrorized by kidnapers, roving death squads and, in a term perhaps coined by Mr. Bush, "suiciders."

The American ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad, acknowledged last week that even at this late date, there are parts of western Iraq that are not controlled by American forces, but rather "are under the control of terrorists and insurgents."

Now we get word that U.S. marines may have murdered two dozen Iraqis in cold blood last November.

No one should be surprised that such an atrocity could occur. That's what happens in war. The killing gets out of control, which is yet another reason why it's important to have mature leaders who will do everything possible to avoid war, rather than cavalierly sending the young and the healthy off to combat as if it were no more serious an enterprise than a big-time sporting event.

Nothing new came out of the Bush-Blair press conference. After more than three years these two men are as clueless as ever about what to do in Iraq. Are we doomed to follow the same pointless script for the next three years? And for three years after that?

Leadership does not get more pathetic than this. Once there was F.D.R. and Churchill. Now there's Bush and Blair.

Reacting to the allegations about the murder of civilians, the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael Hagee, went to Iraq last week to warn his troops about the danger of becoming "indifferent to the loss of a human life."

Somehow that message needs to be conveyed to the top leaders of this country, and to the public at large. There is no better day than Memorial Day to reflect on it. As we remember the dead, we should consider the living, and stop sending people by the thousands to pointless, unnecessary deaths.

**SUPPORT FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL
NATIONAL WOMEN'S CON-
FIDENCE DAY**

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 1st Annual National Women's Confidence Day. I join the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in their effort to

raise awareness for and development of confidence in the personal and professional lives of women everywhere. Supporting the development and improvement of women not only in this country but around the world is of critical importance. Establishing and celebrating the 1st Annual National Women's Confidence Day has gone far to achieve this objective.

The impacts that women make in our workplaces, in our communities, and in our homes are many and commendable. The influence of women today is at a highpoint in history. Women serve in leadership roles in private sector businesses, in government, in the field of education, in the arts and sciences, and in virtually every sector of our society.

Eighty-two females proudly and ably serve as Member of Congress in the 109th Congress. I, and my female colleagues, know firsthand not only the barriers to overcome and the rigors to endure, but also the satisfaction of achieving the personal and professional goals that we have set for ourselves. Having the confidence to meet these challenges and best them makes the rewards of doing so that much more enjoyable. Having the confidence in yourself to set ambitious goals, to work towards them, and to attain them is crucial to success in both personal and professional aspects of one's life.

The 1st Annual National Women's Confidence Day will carry the message that self-confidence and self-esteem in women—old and young—are important tools not only for success in the workplace but also for living healthy, happy, and meaningful lives.

It is my pleasure to support the YWCA in promoting the far-reaching objectives of this program. Their work will improve the lives of women and girls in the United States. I commend them for their leadership on this issue.

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH BIRTH-
DAY OF DR. TIMOTHY G. BAKER**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Timothy G. Baker of Fresno, California on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Dr. Baker has been a committed political advocate and a valued member of our community for as long as many of us can remember; it is for these reasons we honor him for his accomplishment and his character.

An advocate even in grade-school, Dr. Baker's interest in politics began long ago when he ran for President and Vice President of his class while attending Tenaya Junior High School and Bullard High School in Fresno. While his legislative agenda has progressed from leading student council meetings in grade school to managing key components of state political campaigns in his professional life, Tim Baker's energy never waned in community fundraising efforts to improve the quality of life for citizens in our Valley.

After graduation from high school in 1973, he continued his education at California State University, Fresno where he pursued a Bachelor's of Arts in Zoology. It was during this time that Dr. Baker became drawn to California State politics. He was involved in the campaign for Senator George Zenovich, now

retired from the California State Legislature. Having acquired the taste for political campaigns, Tim became a valued asset in Congressman Rick Lehman's first California State Assembly campaign and my own first campaign for the California State Assembly.

The community has truly benefited from Dr. Baker's hard work and distinctive character. He eventually earned his Doctorates of Dental Surgery from the University of Pacific in 1982 and went on to serve as a resident in general practice dentistry at Valley Medical Center. Dr. Baker continues to practice dentistry in Fresno and also serves as the 6 County Dental Education Director for the University of California in San Francisco, headquartered in Fresno. In honor of his hard work and commitment to the community, Dr. Baker was awarded the University of California, San Francisco Outstanding Achievement Award.

Dr. Baker is a shining example of what it means to constantly strive for perfection. He is a political consultant, a practicing dentist and a valued member of our community. On behalf of all who know him, I would like to thank Dr. Tim Baker for his many contributions to our community and wish him continued success.

**HONORING CHARLOTTE MARIE
PETERSON QUANN**

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great civic and community advocate, Charlotte Marie Peterson Quann, who died on May 17, 2006. I join my constituents in honoring her lifetime of service to San Francisco's most vulnerable and in recognizing her leadership as one of the earliest African American professional women.

Charlotte called many places her home, but she devoted more than three decades of her life to improving the lives of those less fortunate in the San Francisco Bay Area. She served as the Chair of the Board for La Casa de Las Madres, an emergency shelter for battered women and their children, and as Chair of the Glide Church Board of Trustees in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco. At Glide she ministered to the poor and infirm and took special delight in the children's programs. Charlotte was an active participant in the Cal-Nevada United Methodist conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. When she died at age 72, she was the Chair of the Board of Center Point drug treatment programs and of the Mary Elizabeth Inn, a shelter for women in transition.

Charlotte began her leadership activities early in life. In high school she joined numerous clubs where she ran for office. She graduated from the Detroit Public School System and graduated from Northwestern High School at age 16. She was active in the Urban League, YMCA speech and debate, and her photo is in Northwestern's Hall of fame. At age 16 she went to the U.S. Capitol and served as one of the first and youngest female Congressional pages. Her father, at whose side she learned, organizing Detroit's factory workers, inspired her political activism.

In 1959, Charlotte became the first African American to work for Capital Airlines (the

predecessor of United Airlines). She held many positions there and also served as President, Vice President, and Secretary of the United Airlines Black Professional Organization.

Charlotte will be missed by all who cherished her warm smile and infectious humor and who were touched by her selfless leadership and advocacy. I extend my deepest sympathy to her sons, Steven and Warren, her daughter Carla, her grandson, Carl, her granddaughters Catherine, Sade, and Iman, her sisters Gloria Patton, Scheryl Peterson, and Gail Peterson, her brothers Willie Jr. and George Peterson, sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews. Thank you for sharing Charlotte with us; her life was a gift to us all.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALIZATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of third world debt relief for the RECORD. In the article, *Can Developing Countries Be Financial Saviors of Rich Nations?*, published in Volume XXIV No. 1230 (May 24–30, 2006) issue of *The New York CaribNews*, Mr. Tony Best cites Dr. Jeremy Siegel, a professor of the Wharton School of Business. Addressing the possibility that the baby boomers' selling their savings stocks and bonds would lead to a weakening of the assets of the rich nations, Dr. Siegel claims that the best solution is to allow investors from developing countries to buy up these excess stocks to maintain the market prices. Mr. Best asserts that some of "the highest growth rates in dollar terms in market capitalization was in the emerging markets" of Macedonia, West Bank and Gaza, Fiji, Nigeria, Jamaica, Botswana, Trinidad and Tobago, India, Kenya, Bermuda and Tanzania. As Mr. Best claims, if the global market is integrated so that "the selling of assets from the old in the rich world to the young in the developing world is no more difficult than today's sales of assets by elderly folks" America's trade deficits in the developing world would not be a cause for concern. The increasing investments in America from the growing markets would be balanced by the existing trade deficits and debts owed by the developing countries to the U.S.

[From the *New York CaribNews*,
May 24, 2006]

CAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE FINANCIAL SAVIORS OF RICH NATIONS?

(By Tony Best)

It may not be a case of reverse Robin Hood, meaning stealing from the poor and giving it to the rich. But investors and stock markets in relatively poor nations of the Caribbean and Africa may in the long run be the next financial saviors of future prosperity in the world's wealthiest nations. Add Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to that list and the prospects would become clear, very clear.

So, while people in G-8 nations and their affluent neighbors may not steal from such developing and relatively poor nations as Jamaica, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Botswana, Pakistan, Swaziland, Bermuda, Jordan and at

least 40 other emerging markets, some economists in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere in the developed world are offering a bit of advice: keep your eyes on these economies because they are poised to help make up the shortfall of buyers of assets in the rich world. One such economist is Dr. Jeremy Siegel, a professor at the prestigious Wharton School of Business in the U.S. He believes that with many baby boomers in North America and Europe, persons born between 1946-64, getting ready or planning their retirement, they may sell off their stocks and bonds in large quantities to finance their retirement and that in turn can create a huge gap in the assets of rich nations.

"The sale of these assets will lead to a sharp fall in prices, because there are too few people in the smaller generations that followed the boomers to buy all of those assets at today's prices," stated *The Economist* as it explained Siegel's theory.

The upshot: unless the baby-boomers delay their retirement, they could "see their standard of living in retirement halved, relative to their final year of work," the Economist added. Siegel warns a huge sell-off of stocks and bonds by the baby-boomers can trigger a 40-50 percent fall in stock prices with a smaller pool of investors coming along in the rich countries to take up the financial slack. That's where the developing countries may come in, goes the argument. Some figures tell an interesting story.

Although the top 10 stock markets in terms of capitalization are in the U.S., Japan, U.K., France, Germany, Canada, Spain, Switzerland, Hong Kong and China in that order, some of the highest growth rates in market capitalization in dollar terms between 1983-2003 were in emerging markets. Macedonia, West Bank and Gaza, Fiji, Nigeria, Jamaica, Botswana, Trinidad and Tobago, India, Kenya, Bermuda and Tanzania are on that list. For instance, Fiji's growth was put at 760 percent; Jamaica's 297 percent; Trinidad and Tobago's 170 percent and Bermuda 92 percent.

When it came to the highest growth in value traded between 1998-2003, Zimbabwe, Jordan, Jamaica, Israel, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Barbados, Malaysia, South Africa, and Sri Lanka were listed among the 44 nations with the best performance. For instance while Zimbabwe had growth of 623 percent; Jamaica 507 percent, Trinidad and Tobago 128 percent; Barbados, 121 percent; and South Africa 76 percent, Germany's pace of expansion was 51 percent and Canada's 42 percent.

Of course, it would take decades before those countries have the financial power to fill the financial gap but then who would have predicted in 1980 that China, India and Dubai would have become such economic giants as to drive fear in the hearts of protectionist lawmakers on Capitol Hill in Washington who worry about their ability to buy U.S. companies. Dr. Siegel is writing a new book called, "The Global Solution," and in it he is insisting that by the middle of the 21st century most multinational companies must find new investors outside of North America, Europe and Japan.

"The challenge is to integrate global markets so that selling assets from the old in the rich world to the young in developing countries is no harder, no more unusual, than today's sales of assets by elderly folks," stated *The Economist*. "From this perspective, America's external deficits, particularly with some developing countries may be both long-lasting and nothing to worry about." It goes without saying that investors in developing countries shouldn't forget that protectionist tendencies in the rich nations are alive and well and can retard growth.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act, a bill to authorize funding for the College Access program, which provides grants for secondary education tuition to the members of the D.C. National Guard. This bill is the eighth in the "Free and Equal D.C." series of bills to remedy obsolete or inappropriate intervention into the local affairs of the District of Columbia or denials of federal benefits or recognition routinely granted to other jurisdictions. I decided on this bill to authorize an education incentive program after meeting with Major General David Wherley, the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard (DCNG), who suggested that education grants would be useful in stemming the troublesome loss of members of the DCNG to Guard units in surrounding states that offer such benefits. I am grateful that last Congress, Representative David Hobson understood the importance of educational benefits in retaining appropriate D.C. National Guard levels in our nation's capital and was instrumental in getting a D.C. National Guard educational grant program included in the House version of the Defense Authorization bill. Unfortunately, the program was dropped in conference.

However, this bill is necessary now more than before because the D.C. National Guard has been experiencing a disproportionate decline in force as compared to the Guards of neighboring jurisdictions, particularly Maryland and Virginia. For example, although National Guards throughout the United States have had difficulty maintaining and increasing their numbers, the decline of the D.C. National Guard has been precipitous. Since 1994, even before the war on terror, statistics show that the D.C. Army Guard has declined 34 percent, as compared to a 26 percent decline for Maryland and Virginia's 16 percent decline. Between 2002 and 2005, the D.C. Air Guard experienced a 6 percent decline, as compared to Maryland's 5 percent decline and Virginia's 2 percent increase.

The declining D.C. National Guard enrollment is especially serious given the unique mission of the D.C. National Guard to protect the federal presence. This responsibility distinguishes the D.C. National Guard from any other National Guard. The D.C. National Guard is specially and specifically trained to meet its unique mission.

The D.C. National Guard, a federal instrument, is losing personnel to other guards because it is not able to offer the same level of benefits that adjacent National Guards provide. The DCNG is severely under-competing for members from the pool of regional residents, who find membership in the MD and VA Guards much more attractive. A competitive tuition assistance program for the D.C. National Guard will provide significant incentive and leverage to help counteract declining enrollment and level the field of competition.

The small education incentives in my bill would not only encourage high quality recruits;

this benefit would have the important benefit of helping the DCNG to maintain the force necessary to protect federal presence, including Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and visitors if an attack on the Nation's capital should occur. I am pleased to introduce this bill on advice of Guard personnel who know best what is necessary.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SUPERINTENDENT SUSAN
BACKMAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Susan Backman on the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of Schools for Dearborn Heights District #7. She has served the community and its students with distinction for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Backman graduated from Western Michigan University in 1971 with a degree in home economics and distributive education. In 1979, she earned her Master of Education degree from Wayne State University. She then earned advanced certification as an education specialist and completed post-graduate credits at Wayne State University in 1988 and 1992 respectively.

In 1971, Mrs. Backman began her career as a teacher in District #7, a job she would keep for the next 13 years. In 1986, she became the Special Education Supervisor, and she earned the position of Director of Student Services in 1994. She then served as Interim Superintendent from 1996 until 1997, when she was hired as Superintendent of Schools. Since that time, Mrs. Backman has worked tirelessly to provide all that she can for the students and staff of District #7.

There is no question that Mrs. Backman's nine years as Superintendent greatly benefited the students of Dearborn Heights. She spent countless hours fostering better relationships with the staff, the community and the Board of Education. Mrs. Backman led a dedicated team of administrators and facilitated the passage of many ballot initiatives to secure additional resources. Furthermore, she oversaw the dramatic reversal of the District's finances from budget deficits and mismanagement to one of growth and responsibility. Throughout her career, Mrs. Backman has been an innovator and a pioneer in researching and implementing the new policies, procedures and programs that have helped District #7 succeed and excel. Mrs. Backman's 2005 nomination for National Superintendent of the Year reflects her undying efforts as an advocate for public education.

Susan Backman's retirement is a bittersweet moment for District #7, and I would ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing her the very best of luck, health and happiness in the future. I join the community in thanking her for her dedicated service to the students of Dearborn Heights over the last 35 years. While her leadership and guidance will be missed, her work and achievements will not be forgotten.

CIVIL RIGHTS, IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: A
UNIFIED MOVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an editorial, entitled From Civil Rights to Immigrant Rights, published in the May 16, 2006 edition of the New York Carib News, by Basil Wilson on the CaribOpinion page. Mr. Wilson raises some pertinent issues and questions about the highly polarized immigration debate. The Republican immigration bill wants to criminalize illegal immigrants and individuals and organizations that support them. Claiming that illegal immigrants are a costly burden on legitimate taxpayers, legislation is being discussed to deny medical services to undocumented workers. Fearing that "Latinization of America" is a threat to American values, the conservatives plan to militarize the southwestern border but policing 1,900 miles border is very difficult, not to mention costly.

The shocking revelation is that this anti-immigrant sentiment is not only backed by economic concerns but also by academic ideology. Samuel P. Huntington and the like are "for immigration provided the dominant culture of white Protestantism is preserved." Recalling the Know Nothing Party of the 1840's whose goal was to expunge the "foreign and unassimilatable Irish Catholics," Mr. Wilson deplores the generalization of the supremacists that Mexican immigrants are unwilling to be integrated into American society. Even if that were the case, the history of Black America proves that assimilation alone is not the answer. The civil rights movement abolished the institutionalized segregation but racism has not disappeared from America. More importantly the power relation with white America has not changed. "The black commitment to integration did not ease the white backlash and the immigrant assimilation will not mitigate the resistance to the browning of America." The struggle of today's immigrants is about first class citizenship. The 11.5 million immigrant workers who are an integral part of the American society deserve their rightful place.

I join Mr. Wilson in urging that the movements for civil rights, immigrant rights and social justice should join forces to free America from the grip of its historical racism.

[From the New York CaribNews, May 16, 2006]

FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
(By Basil Wilson)

The mass demonstrations on May 1, 2006, dramatized the rights of immigrants and their capacity to mobilize on the part of Hispanic Americans. Mass numbers took to the streets in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, etc. The mass mobilization has unsurprisingly triggered a white backlash from segments of white civil society who were opposed to any form of legalization of undocumented workers. Like the civil rights movement of the 1960s, the immigrant rights movement that has been launched in 2006, seeks legislation in Congress to redress their grievances.

Paradoxically, it was the proposed bill passed in the House of Representatives on December 17, 2005 which precipitated the im-

migrant rights movement. The Republican Bill sought to criminalize visitors staying beyond their stay or crossing the borders illegally. The proposed legislation seeks to criminalize individuals and organizations that provide support for illegal immigrants. This extreme legislation reveal the high state of polarization in the country regarding what is to be done with 11.5 million illegal immigrants who take part in the day to day life of American society. The immigration debate like the civil rights debate evokes deep emotions among white Americans who view the Latinization of America as constituting a threat to Protestant hegemony.

Republican conservatives have somewhat sanitized their position since immigrants have taken to the streets. Representatives in the House like Tancredo and Sensenbrenner insist that they are for legal immigration but vehemently oppose amnesty as that would undermine the rule of law in the country. The salient issue for the conservative wing of the Republican Party is the sealing of the borders. Since the 1996 immigration legislation, the United States Congress has allocated billions of dollars to protect the 1,900 mile border between Mexico and America. The Immigration and Custom Enforcement division under the rubric of Homeland Security has been using state of the art technology, helicopters, and increased patrols to stem the tidal wave of immigrants streaming across the unsealed border. There is strong sentiment among conservatives to build a wall and to militarize the border to thwart illegal aliens from crossing the southwest border. The truth of the matter is that the policing of 1,900 mile border is a trying task. That situation becomes even more challenging when so many Mexican and Central American workers find themselves succumbing to an increasingly immiserated state.

Republican conservatives make the case that illegal immigrants are a costly burden on the backs of legitimate taxpayers. The accusation is that illegal aliens are overcrowding the public school system and clogging the emergency wards of hospitals. There is even legislation underway in the House of Representatives to prevent hospitals from providing emerging service to undocumented workers.

The level of polarization is not driven just by economics. Economics provide a respectable cover for the debate. The recent study authored by the Harvard scholar, Samuel Huntington, Who Are We? The Challenge to America's National Identity unmasks the true roots of the national hysteria. Huntington in 1996 wrote. For the Harvard scholar, the new danger was the clash of civilization between Islam and the West. Those fault lines were particularly volcanic and the war in the Middle East is manifestation of that collision between Islamic civilization and the encroaching military arm of western civilization. The Huntingtons of the world are preoccupied with the preserving of American military hegemony and the only way that the hegemony can be sustained is for America to pursue policies aimed at the subjugation of peoples committed to the post-colonial principle of self-determination.

Huntington's point of departure vis-à-vis migration is identical to his position on world civilization. He is for immigration provided the dominant culture of white protestantism is preserved. Huntington's position is that the volume and cultural distinctiveness of the new immigration poses a threat to American civilization. His wrath is aimed not just at immigrants but Mexican immigrants in particular. In his view, the former epochs of mass migration were unthreatening because the Irish wave of the

1840s and the Southern Europe phase of 1890–1920s were assimilatable unlike the present wave of Mexicans.

The previous immigrant waves generated the same histrionics. In the 1840s, the Know Nothing Party was created to purge the country of the foreign ad unassimilatable Irish Catholics. White Anglo-Saxon Protestants argued that Italians and Jews were not assimilatable. Italians and Jews were not seen as white and were not given that status until after Hitler's genocide in World War II.

Huntington sees the Mexicans as constituting a threat to values that made America great—the values of hard work, love of family, and a unitary cultural system. According to Huntington's weltanschauung, the concentration of Mexicans in the southwest constitutes a threat to American loyalty. He perceives that the loyalty to Mexico, the difference in culture, the language clash will invariably lead to two Americas. He throws data into the mix and argues that Mexicans have not shown a propensity to learn the language or a willingness to show loyalty to America. In the 2004 Presidential election, a majority of the Hispanic community supported the war in Iraq. In contrast blacks overwhelmingly opposed the war.

The response to the mass mobilization on the part of the Hispanic community on May 1, 2006 and previous demonstrations reflects the deep asundering in the American society. The detractors have been critical of Mexican or other foreign flags. The singing of the national anthem in Spanish sparked vehement emotions and brought to the fore issues of patriotism and dual loyalties.

White America likes to be flattered. Martin Luther King and the civil rights leadership understood the importance of flattery to persuade a majority of Americans to the correctness of toppling Jim Crow. Black people sought to be assimilated into America. The civil rights movement was about building an integrated society consolidating the cultural system. The immigrant movement is about Mexicans and others taking their rightful position in American society. Immigrants have taken great risk to enter America's borders to become American. One sees the magnetic force of American culture and by the second generation of immigrants, they become indistinguishable from indigeneous Americans.

The black commitment to integration did not ease the white backlash and the immigrants to assimilation will not mitigate the resistance to the browning of America. There is a convergence of the civil rights movement, the immigrant rights movement and the movement for social justice. Although the civil rights movement accomplished the abolition of de jure segregation with the passage of the Civil Rights Bill in 1964, the Voting Rights Act in 1965, the Housing Rights Act of 1968 and the Immigration Legislation of 1965, institutionalized racism has not disappeared.

Racism persists but in a less truculent form. In the post civil rights era, the black community finds itself in a far more variegated state. There has been some expansion in the ranks of the black middle class. The working class has become more precarious and even though there is a reduction in poverty, there has been a sharp rise in the ranks of the incarcerated. Nonetheless, there has been no change in the power relationships with white America. Power is far from being variegated.

There is increased black representation in politics but the black community finds itself still in a state of powerlessness. Black people are not catching hell in America because of the massive influx of legal and illegal immigrants. There are sectors of the economy where illegal immigrants occupy niches such

as in construction that black workers could fill that void. There are black spokespersons who see illegal immigrants as the reason why black men are being left behind.

The immigrant struggle is synonymous with the black struggle. The struggle of the immigrants is about first class citizenship. In American society, like so many other societies, there is a need to have someone beneath to stomp on perennially. That is what whites sought to do with blacks from the genesis of the society until now. That is what poor whites relished in the Jim Crow years and continue to sustain that asymmetrical relationship. If black labor is degraded, then all labor is degraded. The immigrant movement is about worker's rights and the recognition that illegal workers who have been for decades are entitled to emancipation from deportation, to live in human dignity. That is a condition that black people and all people of color in American society can identify. The caricaturizing of Mexicans is no different from age-old dehumanization of black people. Huntington and others of his ilk are oblivious to their supremacist worldview which is so entangled with America's view of military hegemony.

This other worldview is possible but the possibility for this other world is enhanced if white supremacy on the national stage and on the world stage is obliterated. It will only come about when America recognizes the pluralistic state of the world and that America's role is not about the building of walls or engaging in inhumane forms of mass deportation. America has had to adapt to the millions of Africans who came ashore beginning in 1619 and now constitute an integral part of America's multi-racial society.

The 12 million immigrants must become an integral part of America. The change in status from their undocumented precarious position will enable them to have access to higher education and social programs to improve the conditions of their existence. America is split down the middle on the rights of immigrants. This is a difficult time for America. It is confused about its role in the world. Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist recognized that no entity gives up power willingly. The significance of the black and brown movement is the capacity to forge links with the other America to force America from the trappings of white supremacy. The test of the immigrant movement will be its staying power. The battle for immigrant rights has only just begun.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 729, Supporting National Tourism Week. National Tourism Week, established by Congress in 1983, celebrates tourism to our country, the hospitality of the American people, and the hard work done by the many Americans who are involved directly and indirectly in the tourism and hospitality industry. This resolution highlights some of the major economic contributions that tourism from domestic and international visitors has upon the U.S. economy, at the Federal, State and local levels.

To quantify the U.S. tourism industry as one industry is challenging. In fact, the tourism in-

dustry in the U.S. is a conglomeration of many different industries, the leadership of many individuals at the national, State and local levels, and the myriad dreams and interests of all those who come to enjoy America's vacation spots, its natural wonders, and its historical areas of interest. The strength of the U.S. tourism industry is in its diversity and the diversity of the visitors it hosts.

Tourism is vitally important to Guam. The Guam Visitors Bureau, led by Chairman David B. Tydingco, Vice Chairman Bruce Kloppenburg, General Manager Gerald S.A. Perez, Deputy General Manager Mary C. Torres, and its board members and other officers, continues its excellent work toward increasing the numbers of visitors to Guam. The Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association, led by President David B. Tydingco, Chairman of the Board of Directors Bartly Jackson, and members of the board of directors, continue to ensure that the visitors to Guam receive a world-class level of hospitality, service, and entertainment during their stay on-island. The Guam Chamber of Commerce, under the able leadership of Chairman Michael T. Benito and President Eloise Baza, remains as the lead organization promoting the economic benefits of tourism to Guam and the general economic development of the island through the growth and diversification of Guam's private sector.

The vibrant, capable, and professional tourism industry in the United States provides individuals, families, and groups the ability to see, to experience, and to become a part of the many wonderful tourist attractions located across the United States. In doing so, the U.S. tourism industry facilitates greater understanding of, respect for, and identification with American history, culture and society by both Americans and guests from foreign countries. National Tourism Week is the celebration of the effort to foster better relations between communities within the U.S. and around the world while growing, diversifying, and strengthening the U.S. economy by promoting travel and tourism to the United States.

DESIGNATING JULY AS SMART IRRIGATION MONTH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Irrigation Association in designating July as Smart Irrigation Month.

Since 1949, the Irrigation Association has been charged with and has been successful in leading the advancement of water-use efficiencies to create smarter solutions for agricultural, residential and commercial landscape irrigation. The Irrigation Association is dedicated to developing the irrigation industry and effectively utilizing our most vital resource.

With such charge in mind, the Irrigation Association has named July Smart Irrigation Month to raise awareness about the importance of using efficient watering practices, technologically advanced irrigation products and water conservation. In addition, Smart Irrigation Month is a great opportunity to educate constituents and consumers, including homeowners, garden clubs, growers and farm irrigation managers, with valuable watersaving irrigation information, products and services.

Additionally, Smart Irrigation Month serves to recognize advances in irrigation technology and practices that produce not only more but also higher quality plants with less water. Given that July is a peak month for the use of water irrigation; this designation also stands to encourage the adoption of smart irrigation for substantial water savings. Consequently appropriate irrigation technology combined with efficient practices can significantly reduce water usage and runoff while creating healthy lawns, landscaping, sports turf and increasing agricultural production.

Water is a finite resource that is essential in the advancement of agriculture, and is vital to human life. Smart Irrigation Month will showcase the importance of smart irrigation practices to the health and well being of communities and individuals. I would like to commend the Irrigation Association for its continued promotion and advancement of efficient water and irrigation use and therefore ask that you join me, together with the Irrigation Association, in designating July as Smart Irrigation Month to be recognized annually from July 2006 forward. Water is the lifeblood of resources that gives sustenance to life. We must wisely use this resource for the future of mankind. Therefore, smart irrigation technologies allows us to do just that.

OPPOSING THE REPEAL OF THE
ESTATE TAX

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to repealing the estate tax. It is fiscally irresponsible and would drive higher an already swelling deficit. Repealing the estate tax lacks rigidity that is desperately needed to reduce the national deficit and balance the budget. On the heels of passing consecutive tax cuts for the wealthy, repealing the estate tax would grant further tax relief to the most affluent in our country while the poor and the working class continue to struggle to make ends meet. Contrarily, estate tax repeal would save the estate of Vice President DICK CHENEY between \$13 million and \$61 million. It would save the estate of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld between \$32 million and \$101 million. The estate of retired Exxon Mobil chairman Lee Raymond would save a comfortable \$164 million. Additionally, tax relief for the wealthy does not materialize in gains for the poorest in America.

I urge my colleague in the Senate, JON KYL, to abandon the pursuit of legislation that would permanently repeal the estate tax for the wealthiest Americans. If adopted, Sen. KYL's bill would plunge the government into another trillion dollars into the red during the first decade (2011–2021) that the legislation would be in effect.

As boomers are retiring from the market place, Congress should mount a concerted effort to preserve Social Security and Medicare rather than giving tax cuts to the wealthy who are not demanding them. Health care needs are not being met by employers and a growing number of Americans are without adequate access to vital care. Repealing the estate tax will not bring these services and other needs

to the most disadvantaged in our nation. Repealing the estate tax is misguided public policy. Democrats and Republicans should focus on strengthening education, Social Security, Medicare and restoring discipline to budget spending.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce an op-ed article written by Harold Meyerson, titled "Estate Tax Lunacy" in the Washington Post on May 31, 2006.

[From the Washington Post, May 31, 2006]

ESTATE TAX LUNACY

(By Harold Meyerson)

Spring has given way to summer's full-fur-nace heat in Washington, apparently taking with it any scintilla of sense that Congress may yet possess.

In the House, Republicans who could not even raise an eyebrow at reports that the National Security Agency has been conducting warrantless wiretaps of Americans became instant civil libertarians when the FBI conducted a search of a congressman's office.

The Senate, meanwhile, is scheduled next week to take up legislation by Arizona Republican Jon Kyl that would permanently repeal the estate tax on the wealthiest Americans. If enacted, Kyl's bill would plunge the government another trillion dollars into the red during the first decade (2011–2021) that it would be in effect.

Behind the scenes, the action has been on the Democratic side in the Senate, as the party's leadership has sought to dissuade Montana's Max Baucus, ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee, from forging a halfway-house compromise with Kyl that would deplete revenue by only \$500 billion to \$600 billion during that decade. The Republicans would need Baucus to bring roughly a half-dozen Democrats along with him to reach the magic number of 60 votes required to overcome any filibuster that the vast majority of Democrats would mount to block any such measure.

Even a paltry \$500 billion, of course, is a lot of money to drain from public coffers just when boomers are going onto Social Security and Medicare and the number of employers providing health insurance, if present trends continue, might have dropped to a virtuous handful. To cover those and other needs, Congress will either plunge us deeper into debt or increase some other levies—payroll taxes, say—that will come out of the pockets of the 99 percent of Americans whom the estate tax doesn't touch.

A decades-long campaign by right-wing activists (brilliantly documented by Yale professors Michael Graetz and Ian Shapiro in their book "Death by a Thousand Cuts") has convinced many Americans that the estate tax poses a threat to countless hardworking families. That was always nonsense, and under the estate tax revisions that almost all Democrats support—raising the threshold for eligibility to \$3.5 million for an individual and \$7 million for a couple—it becomes more nonsensical still. Under the \$3.5 million exemption, the number of family-owned small businesses required to pay any taxes in the year 2000 would have been just 94, according to a study by the Congressional Budget Office. The number of family farms that would have had to sell any assets to pay that tax would have been 13.

On the other hand, an estate tax repeal would save the estate of Vice President Cheney between \$13 million and \$61 million, according to the publicly available data on his net worth. It would save the estate of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld between \$32 million and \$101 million. The estate of retired Exxon Mobil chairman Lee Raymond would pocket a cozy \$164 million. As for the

late Sam Walton's kids, whose company already makes taxpayers foot the bill for the medical expenses of thousands of its employees, the cost to the government for not taxing their estates would run into the multiple billions.

The Baucus split-the-difference measure wouldn't repeal the estate tax, but it would still cut the tax rates on the estates of the super-rich by 15 percent. The Montana senator spent much of last week trying to line up a handful of his Senate Democratic colleagues to support his proposal, in the hope of being able to announce an unshakable 60 votes favoring this folly when the debate begins next week.

Why any Democrat would back such a measure, however, is a deep mystery. From the policy standpoint, it would make it vastly more difficult both to shore up programs that Democrats believe need shoring up—better educating the nation's children, for one—and to get the nation's fiscal house in order. Politically, backing the measure is even wackier. The Democrats are running this year as the party of comparative fiscal sanity and greater economic equity and security. Baucus's compromise would undermine all those premises. Republicans might very well attack Democratic senators up for reelection this year for failing to repeal this hideous death tax, as they call it, but any Democratic senator who can't rebut that charge in what is shaping up as a very Democratic year should probably be in another line of work.

Last Friday Baucus's staffers assured the Democratic Senate leadership's staff that their boss would back off his compromise campaign. Still, given Baucus's penchant for mischief (it was largely he who rounded up enough Democratic votes to enact Medicare Part D and its Big Pharma giveaway), those assurances have met with some skepticism on Capitol Hill. The Democrats' capacity to undermine themselves has not vanished with the final days of spring.

MILL RUN ELEMENTARY D.A.R.E.
PROGRAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me today to recognize the recent D.A.R.E. graduates from Mill Run Elementary School in Ashburn, Virginia. D.A.R.E.—Drug Abuse Resistance Education—has a long history of providing children with the information and skills they need to live drug-and-violence-free lives and I was pleased to recently visit the fifth graders at Mill Run as they completed this program.

I would like to recognize Mill Run principal, Paul Vickers, and fifth grade teachers, Ms. Garofalo, Ms. Neely, Ms. Page, Ms. Sovereign, Ms. Williams, Ms. Wolff, and Mr. Wolslayer. Special acknowledgment also goes to D.A.R.E. officer, Deputy Lynette Ridgley, who is specially trained to work with students, answer their questions, and establish a positive relationship between students, law enforcement, and the community. The D.A.R.E. program, supported by dedicated school faculty, has helped to address the critical need to educate our youth on the consequences of involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence, and how to avoid risky behavior.

Several students at Mill Run Elementary received special awards for poster and essay

submissions. Poster winners include Krista Sanders-Mason, Manik Dayal, William Kim, Ryan Orr, Rob Kramer, Renato Mazzei, Ellie Ferguson, and Brigitte Ganzer. Essay winners include Rachael Williams, Brandon Greer, Francesca Beller, TJ Soroka, Nick Carroll, Emily Ready, and Colin Ceresa. I have inserted for the record these students' essays because I feel it is important to hear from the students themselves about how much of an impact the D.A.R.E. program has made.

One student, TJ Soroka, says it plain and simple, "The information taught in the D.A.R.E. program has given me the knowledge to make good decisions in my life."

(By T.J. Soroka)

When you go to school, you take many subjects, but this year I took one program unlike any other. That was DARE which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It's not taught by any ordinary teacher, in fact, DARE is taught by a Deputy Sheriff who works in Loudoun County. When we started DARE, I thought it would only be about smoking and drugs. But we also learned about inhalants, making good decisions, friendship qualities, being confident, and much more. But I gained the most knowledge in DARE while learning about tobacco and the qualities of a good friend.

Before you smoke a cigarette, think of all the bad things you're doing, such as putting 200 poisons in your body. Also, you aren't just hurting yourself, you're hurting the environment and the people around you. If you're under 18, it's against the law to smoke. I hope you don't smoke a cigarette, now knowing the affects of it.

Do you think your friends have good traits? Do they treat you like a friend? True friends have these qualities. They are loyal to you and you can trust them. Also, they have a bright personality so they can cheer you up. Last, if your friend asks you to smoke, you should have a second thought about them being your friend, after making a bad decision.

The information taught in the DARE program has given me knowledge to make good decisions. DARE also teaches you how to say no to drugs and other substances. Next, DARE has taught me affects of drugs and everything else. DARE has given me the knowledge to make good decisions in my life.

(By Francesca Beller)

What exactly is D.A.R.E.? D.A.R.E. means Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It teaches kids to make smart decisions and teaches them about drugs and alcohol. Our teacher was Deputy Ridgley. She taught us several interesting facts about tobacco, marijuana, peer pressure, and other things that may or may not scare you.

Tobacco, the killer of over 400,000 people a year. It is illegal to anyone under the age of 18, but even though it is, children still do it!

Tobacco affects your body development, so it really affects kids! There are also many diseases that tobacco can cause, such as heart disease, lung cancer, and mouth cancer. So, tobacco is very dangerous to people young and old with its 200 known poisons.

Inhalants, something that can cause sudden death is not what anyone wants. Inhalants have become a big problem now. Teens are using inhalants a lot. They use super glue, paint thinner, and other things. Inhalants can suffocate you and cause diarrhea. They also starve the body of oxygen and force the heart to beat irregularly. Some chronic users may have reduced muscle tone of strength. So if inhalants are so bad, why do it?

Advertisements, they trick people into buying bad products. Some tobacco commer-

cial or advertisements may have you knocking on the wrong door. If tobacco turns your teeth yellow, then why do people in the ads have such white teeth? Beer ads do the same thing. They do not tell you the consequences most of the time. All they care about is you buying the product! Also, a tobacco company gave a ton of money to a charity, then spent more money than what they gave to charity telling people about it! Don't be fooled by advertisements, it may cut your life short.

I think D.A.R.E. has really made an impact on my life. Now I know everything I need to know about things from drugs to alcohol to peer pressure. I really think that everyone should take D.A.R.E. because it will probably lead most people down the right path for their lives. D.A.R.E. is very fun and is just a great program!

(By Brandon Greer)

"Click, click." The teenager was just handcuffed for smoking marijuana in a bathroom. I will never make this decision because of D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E. is a program that teaches you about drugs. The D.A.R.E. decision making model, advertising, friendship qualities, peer pressure, personal pressure, ways to say no, and being confident. Our D.A.R.E. teacher was Deputy Ridgley. She was truly kind and comical. She told our class interesting stories in relation to her experiences about drugs.

One main drug we talked about was tobacco. Tobacco is found in cigarettes and in chewing tobacco. Tobacco is responsible for more than 400,000 deaths in America each year. Tobacco shoots your body right in the foot because it causes some major health problems. One is you could suffer shortness of breath and dizziness. It also hurts the people around you, because approximately 3,000 nonsmokers die each year from lung cancer. If you want to be beautiful, don't smoke. The 200 known poisons in the cigarette's smoke can affect your appearance. One way smoking affects your appearance is it dries your skin out and causes wrinkles. Smoking also causes yellow teeth and gives you terrible breath. Yuck!

Another major issue we spoke about was being confident. You need to be confident when a friend asks you a question, such as "Do you want to smoke?" Do not speak in a weak voice or have poor posture while you tell your friend you are not interested. Your friend will just keep nagging at you to smoke because he knows that you are unsure. To show your confidence, you must have excellent posture by standing up straight with shoulders back and chin up. Look your friend right in the eye and maintain eye contact. You then must speak clearly and respectfully. Remember to stay calm and say no thank you. If you are confident your friend will stop asking you to smoke. Hopefully, your friend will ask you if you want to do some other activity.

I really loved D.A.R.E. I think that D.A.R.E. will actually help me in the future by knowing how to say no to drugs. I believe that it is extremely important to be drug free. If you take drugs you are basically throwing away your life because you might become addicted and think you must have drugs. I also think it is important that my friends and family do not do drugs. If you are drug free you can enjoy sports like, skiing, soccer, football, basketball, hockey, and other activities. You will also live a longer and have a better life if you don't do drugs. I have truthfully enjoyed learning about drugs and other D.A.R.E. topics. I will always continue to be 100% drug free.

(By Rachael T. Williams)

D.A.R.E. is something everybody can listen to, Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

D.A.R.E. helps kids understand the cautions of drugs and alcohol from the start, and that nothing is real on advertising. Those are only two of the millions of things that D.A.R.E. teaches you!

Alcohol isn't something that helps you grow or something to play with. Alcohol is loss of self-control or even coma and death! Yes, you can drink once you're over twenty-one, but that doesn't give you the right to go party until four in the morning! Alcohol is a very dangerous thing. It is something you should never drink if you're under age, not even if someone calls you chicken. Even if they try to act tougher than you are, they're not. They're not stronger than you are, or cooler, or smarter than you are. It may seem like they're cooler but truly they're not.

You may look into a magazine and flip a few pages and then see an advertisement, and you will see people smoking cigarettes and having a great time. Well guess what, that is not reality. Reality is yellow teeth and sickness and your lungs turning black and failing. Cigarettes or cigars aren't a pool filled with fun. It causes breathing problems or heart disease and even cancer in your lungs, mouth, throat, bladder, and kidney! Smoking is just a big black hole of emptiness! So, don't listen to advertisements.

Peer pressure happens to everybody. It can happen on the bus, at recess, or even walking home from school. Sometimes people will be pressuring you about drugs or sometimes alcohol. They will make it seem fun and make it look like the answer to your prayers. Well, it's not. There are a lot of ways to say no like using humor or standing up for yourself. Those are just two ways to say no. D.A.R.E. will teach you many other ways.

D.A.R.E. is an awesome place to learn about drugs and how they can hurt you. I love going to D.A.R.E. Before D.A.R.E., I didn't even know half of the cautions of drugs and alcohol and how risky it is to drink or smoke. I know now that one day I'm going to be offered a cigarette or some alcohol, and I know exactly what to say: "NO!" I'll walk away and never trust a person like that again. Now I'll remember that no is the way to go.

(By Colin Ceresa)

In fifth grade we take a special class called D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. My D.A.R.E. teacher, Deputy Ridgley, teaches us the dangers of drugs and alcohol, how to say no, and how to avoid dangerous situations.

Smoking can do horrible things to your body. Did you know smoking can turn your lungs black? Smoking makes it hard to breathe and makes you dizzy. It makes your breath smell, turns your teeth yellow, dries your skin out and causes wrinkles. There are 200 known poisons in cigarette smoke. Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer. I feel that smoking is very wrong. My Pop-Pop started smoking during the Viet Nam War and then smoked for 40 years. Luckily he quit a few years ago and is doing fine.

If you want to avoid all these bad things you need to be able to say no!!! Saying no can help you avoid many dangerous situations. You can say no in many ways. You could ignore the person offering you drugs. You could give a reason or fact to the person who is offering you drugs and tell them why they are bad for you, or you could walk away from the person who is offering you drugs. Saying no can change your life in so many ways. Saying no could even save your life.

I feel that all of the information that I learned in D.A.R.E. will help me a lot in the future. I know how bad alcohol, drugs and tobacco are for you. I also learned that you

need to be confident and not let your friends pressure you into doing something that is illegal or will hurt you. D.A.R.E. has helped show me the importance of just saying NO!

(By Emily Ready)

“Good afternoon, guys. Today we’re going to talk about...” Every single year, fifth graders in Loudoun County take a class called D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. A deputy from Loudoun County Sheriff’s office comes and teaches you. Some of my favorite things that we learned about were tobacco, alcohol, and peer pressure.

Coughing, yellow teeth, cancer? These are just some of the things tobacco does to you. Cigarettes contain tobacco, and smoking is the main cause of heart disease. More than 400,000 people die every year from smoking. It can also turn your lungs from natural pink to sickening black. My thoughts on tobacco are tobacco is a horrible thing, and if you use it, you are ruining your life!

Jail, comas, and possible death are only a few of the things too much alcohol can get you. Alcohol is in beer, wine, and liquor. It slows down your brain and your body. In case you’re wondering, most teenagers DON’T drink alcohol. I think if people were more responsible with alcohol, it wouldn’t be a problem.

Peer pressure is when other people, friends or not, try to get you to do something you may or may not wish to do. Some people can be mean about it, or some will be nice and it can be something good for you. If it’s bad, just say NO! I think if it’s mean or bad peer pressure, we don’t need it! It can hurt people’s feelings and make them do something dangerous or awful that can hurt them or other people.

I really enjoyed the D.A.R.E. program this year. It showed me just how dangerous smoking and underage drinking really are. I believe it is important to stay drug-free because you can destroy yourself, your family, and your future. So, I, Emily Ready, promise to stay drug-free and stay a non-tobacco user and a nonunderage drinker.

(By Nick Carroll)

“Lost another one to drugs because of over use of alcohol,” sighed Dr. Smith. That won’t happen to me because I took D.A.R.E. class. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. During D.A.R.E. we learned about alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, and tobacco. We learned about more than just drugs. We learned how to say no and about the D.A.R.E. decision making model. We also learned about how dangerous inhalants can be and the tricks of advertisement.

Inhalants can be used as a type of drug. It can be made using household products concentrated in a certain place (like in a paper bag). They are very dangerous! It can kill you instantly even if you’re doing it for the first time. Inhalants can damage your brain and liver. You might suffer from a loss of smell, depression, and can cause a heart attack! It can also suffocate you. It will starve your body of oxygen and force your heart to beat irregularly and more rapidly. You could get sores in the mouth and nose. Chronic users can have muscle wasting and reduced muscle tone and strength. Inhalants can cause nausea and nosebleeds. Inhalants are one of the things that kill many children each year. Inhalants can cause most of these problems without you knowing it until it’s too late.

Advertising is one of the ways drug companies get people to buy their stuff. One of the ways they do it is to show famous celebrities drinking beer or smoking a cigarette. They also show happy people with beer, wine, or a

cigarette. They put advertisements almost everywhere you could look. They put them on TV commercials, in magazines, billboards, and many other places. They think that by putting them in a lot of places they are getting more customers and it works, people go for the advertisements.

I think D.A.R.E. was an exciting subject. We learned many things from our instructor, Deputy Ridgley. She made it enjoyable to learn about drugs and how to stay drug free. Deputy Ridgley told us many stories, which made it exciting. I think that it is important to stay drug free to keep from getting sick or hurt from different drugs. I will stay drug free to keep from getting sick or hurt by drugs!

INTRODUCTION OF IRAN GAS QUARANTINE RESOLUTION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a resolution with Congressman ROBERT ANDREWS (D–NJ) which emphasizes that the crisis regarding Iran’s nuclear program should be resolved primarily through diplomatic means. I choose diplomacy over conflict; and I believe the United States and our allies can achieve our ends to the Iranian nuclear program without firing a shot. By focusing on Iran’s reliance on gasoline imports, this concurrent resolution suggests a thoughtful and effective approach to diplomacy with Iran.

The resolution I introduce today states that as part of the diplomatic effort, the United States should consider a gasoline quarantine, organized and enforced by a multilateral coalition of nations. This action would be a strong yet prudent action to dissuade Iran from joining the nuclear club.

Despite its wealth of crude oil, Iran imports nearly 40 percent of its refined gasoline. For years, the Iranian regime has subsidized this imported gasoline by \$3 billion a year to keep prices artificially low in order to maintain economic and political stability. A quarantine, and the resulting spike in prices, would be catastrophic to the regime’s stability.

The Iranian economy is nearly at its breaking point due to crushing unemployment, inflation, and the rush of foreign investors leaving the Islamic Republic. A quarantine would push the government’s ability to spend to the breaking point, forcing them to consider compromise.

Congressman ANDREWS and I introduced a similar resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 177, on June 14, 2005. Since that time, Iran selected an unpredictable and belligerent new leader. Iran has restarted uranium enrichment and paraded missiles through the street with banners saying “Death to America” and “Wipe Israel off the Map.” This resolution reflects the current situation with respect to Iran, and suggests an innovative solution to the nuclear impasse.

I want to thank my good friend Congressman ROBERT ANDREWS for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this important foreign policy initiative.

SUPPORTING THE MUSLIMS CARE PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, my heartfelt support for the “Muslims Care” campaign, launched by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, CAIR, to promote volunteerism in the Islamic community. CAIR is asking Muslims across the country to volunteer their time for raising health awareness, helping the needy and supporting activities for youth. Using verses from the Qur’an and Hadith, the “Muslims Care” tool kit (available in www.muslims-care.org) is encouraging local mosques to participate and promote volunteering programs such as blood drives, health awareness, student tutoring, etc.

First of all, the “Muslims Care” program has a community benefits focus, which can potentially bring together people from a multitude of backgrounds and interests. Moreover, it offers an opportunity to weave Muslims and Islamic identity into the American sociocultural fabric, a viable approach to counter the misinformation that is out there about Islam and Muslims. Lastly, a recent survey, conducted by CAIR, showed that the majority of Americans promised to change their views about Islam if Muslims are seen to be concerned about healthcare, education, economy, issues that plague the average American. The “Muslims Care” campaign is an excellent way to overcome this us/them mentality and the prejudices about Islam and Muslims.

I heartily support this undertaking by CAIR, as well as their other programs that promote cross-cultural dialogue to enhance the understanding of Islam.

U.S. MUSLIMS LAUNCH ANNUAL VOLUNTEERISM CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON, DC., May 25, 2006.—A prominent national Islamic civil rights and advocacy group today called on American Muslims to support its second annual campaign, called “Muslims Care,” designed to promote volunteerism in the Islamic community.

In its summer-long initiative, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) will offer Muslims the resources and information they need to help improve the communities in which they live. This year, CAIR will again ask Muslims across the country to focus on health awareness, helping the needy and activities for youth.

Visitors to CAIR’s campaign website, www.muslims-care.org, will be able to download a toolkit containing information about how to become a volunteer and suggesting volunteer activities such as blood drives, health awareness fairs and student tutoring. CAIR is suggesting that community members visit the website to submit local volunteer opportunities and see what activities are available in their state.

The “Muslims Care” kit also offers advice to Islamic religious leaders about how they can promote volunteerism in local mosques and suggests partnering with established volunteer groups such as the American Cancer Society and Big Brother/Big Sisters.

Local Islamic leaders and imams (prayer leaders) are being encouraged to give Friday sermons on the importance of volunteerism. The “Muslims Care” toolkit has sample verses from the Quran, Islam’s revered text, and hadith (Islamic traditions) to incorporate in the sermons. One tradition quotes

Islam's Prophet Muhammad as saying, "The upper hand (of giving) is better than the lower hand (at receiving)," as an encouragement to provide for those less fortunate.

"As Muslims, we are encouraged to work to improve the communities in which we live," said CAIR Communication Coordinator Rabiah Ahmed.

Ahmed cited a recently-conducted CAIR opinion survey showing that a majority of Americans said they would change their views about Islam and Muslims if they perceived that Muslims were more concerned about issues such as healthcare, education and the economy.

CAIR, America's largest Islamic civil liberties group, has 32 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

TRIBUTE TO DICK LAWLER

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dick Lawler, a long-time friend, who after dedicating 35 years of his heart and soul to the field of journalism has reached one of life's greatest milestones, and will finally take his well-deserved retirement.

Dick is known by his peers as someone with an invigorating ability to reach people in a way that leaves a lasting positive impression. Evidence of such can be found in one of Dick's classic euphemisms, "If it were easy, everyone would do it." Those words speak volume to the character of this great man.

That said Mr. Speaker, if it were easy, everyone would have a loving wife, devoted children, and adoring grandchildren. Everyone would raise a family worthy of respect from their friends and peers.

If it were easy, everyone would devote themselves to their community. We would all find the time to help children, serve our neighbors, and make the community that raised us a better place to grow up in.

If it were easy we would all be passionate about our jobs and our professions. Our work would exhibit the enthusiasm we feel every day, and our patrons would recognize the joy we feel from serving them. We would become legends in our own time, and admired for our skills.

If it were easy, everyone would do it.

For over 35 years, Dick has been a consummate journalistic professional who has sought to further hone and craft his skills every day. He is a man who was dedicated to the pursuit of both truth and a good story. A man who sat with Henry Kissinger, Robert F. Kennedy, school children, and shopkeepers equally.

In his private life he has dedicated countless hours to raising funds for children's hospitals and improving our community. It is these good works that have truly endeared him to us. For many years, my wife and I have often been privileged to share the company of his family. From backyard barbecues to cheering on our hometown Utica Blue Sox with our fellow "bleacher bums," Dick and his wife Jackie have always been a treasured part of our lives.

Very little in life is easy, but Dick has always managed to approach life with a grace and simplicity that makes it seem effortless. As a journalist, a father, and a friend, Dick has spent the last 35 years tantalizing us with how easy life can seem when you work hard to reach your goals.

I wish him tremendous success in his retirement from journalism, I know all too well that it is never easy to leave your passion. And if it truly were that easy, everyone would do it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STORMWATER ENFORCEMENT AND PERMITTING ACT OF 2006

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as a homebuilder for over 35 years, I rise today in support of the Stormwater Enforcement and Permitting Act of 2006, a bill introduced by Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN to streamline the Clean Water Act stormwater permitting process for residential construction sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) costly, excessive, and inconsistent stormwater regulations need to be reformed to ensure affordable homes can be constructed without burdensome regulations that do little to protect the environment. More effective environmental protection will come from simple, straightforward rules that encourage compliance.

Stormwater is different from the industrial pollutants that are the focus of EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Rainfall events that generate stormwater runoff on residential construction sites cannot be controlled in the same way a manufacturing plant can control the flow of its industrial processes. The inflexible requirements imposed by the EPA do not acknowledge these differences. A more consistent and sensible enforcement approach would better protect our water resources without increasing housing costs.

I believe stormwater regulations must be reasonable, which is why I am an original co-sponsor of the Stormwater Enforcement and Permitting Act of 2006. This bill creates an outreach program to ensure all homebuilders know of EPA's regulations, gives builders an opportunity to correct benign stormwater permit deficiencies that do not result in environmental damage, and clarifies, codifies, and streamlines EPA's stormwater regulations for residential construction sites.

At a time when housing prices have hit record highs, burdensome regulations are pushing up the costs of housing, squeezing working families out of the market. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this bill forward to streamline EPA's stormwater regulations to ensure all Americans can realize the dream of homeowner-ship.

COLUMNIST DAVID IGNATIUS: IT'S TIME TO CONNECT GLOBALLY, ESPECIALLY WITH IRAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD the commentary entitled "It's Time To Engage With Iran" written by David Ignatius and published in the May 25, 2006 issue of the Washington Post.

Much of the diplomacy of the last 5 years has been confrontational, characterized by threats, ultimatums and labeling or "name calling" of leaders or countries perceived as threats by the Bush administration.

With this threat diplomacy in mind, Mr. Ignatius offers some literary and policy advice. Quoting the last line of E.M. Forester's novel *Howards End*, Mr. Ignatius suggests "Only connect" as a good foreign policy for the United States.

Ignatius suggests only connect is a useful injection in thinking "about U.S. strategy toward Iran and the wider conflicts between the West and the Muslim world." I agree.

The U.S. could certainly have benefited from connections with our traditional allies before we invaded Iraq. Instead President Bush and Vice President CHENEY unhelpfully labeled France, Germany and our other long-time and steadfast allies as "the old Europe." Unbelievably, for a time, otherwise reasonable and sane members of Congress and of the administration insisted on calling french fries, freedom fries.

The Bush administration's arrogance and hubris led the President and Vice President not merely to rebuff the countries who refused to let America lead them into war with Iraq but took every opportunity to disconnect from them. At every opportunity the Bush administration let our long-time friends know our connection with them did not matter. If they were not with us, they were against us. I believe there are those in Congress who regret the attitude represented by these words. Our "coalition of the willing" has few member countries left and those that are left have few soldiers fighting in Iraq.

During the first days of the Bush administration, the U.S. refused to meet with Iran at all. China finally convinced the U.S. to meet with Iran but when we did, our representatives sat in the conference room and announced the U.S. would not deal with Iran and then spoke no more. During the 1½ years we did not deal with Iran it forged ahead on its nuclear research and perhaps produced enriched plutonium. We just don't know.

Ignatius writes that "we are in the early stages of what the Centcom commander, Gen. John Abizaid, calls 'the first war of globalization, between openness and closed societies.'" General Abizaid's advice was to "expand openness and connection." According to Ignatius, General Abizaid called al-Qaeda "the military arm of the closed order." The extremist mullahs in Tehran are leaders of a closed order.

Ignatius writes that America's best strategy is connection and to play to its strengths, which he believes are the open exchange of ideas, backed up by unmatched military power.

I believe we have nothing to fear from connecting with Iran, North Korea, China and Russia. We have much to fear from antagonizing these countries. Vice President CHENEY recently called Russia "irresponsible," which angered President Putin of Russia. Name calling and labeling should not be used by any member of the administration. It is a backward, undiplomatic form of communications employed by schoolyard bullies not by high officials of a country like ours which must learn to live in peace with the other great powers in the world.

We connected, engaged, with the Soviet Union in 1973 through the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, CSCE, even while conservatives warned that it was a dangerous concession that the Soviets might interpret as weakness. Instead the CSCE helped speed the fall of the Soviet Union. President Nixon was warned by conservatives not to go to China and yet an era of great diplomacy with China followed his trip.

The column by David Ignatius points out that Ahmadinejad's letter to President Bush "clearly had the backing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei." In the words of Ignatius "that's like having the support of Vice President CHENEY for a peace feeler."

According to Karim Sadjadpour, an Iranian analyst with the International Crisis Group, opinion polls show that 75 percent of Iranians favor relations with the United States.

There is no guarantee that a policy of engagement will work. But there are no other good options. We can have engagement with Iran and hope they will accept a package we can offer with our allies that will keep them from developing nuclear weapons, or we can learn to live with Iran as a nuclear power, or we can go to war with Iran. War with Iran would have unintended consequences we cannot imagine. It should be obvious that the first of these is the best option.

IT'S TIME TO ENGAGE WITH IRAN
(By David Ignatius)

"Only connect." That was the trademark line of E.M. Forster's great novel "Howards End." And it's a useful injunction in thinking about U.S. strategy toward Iran and the wider conflicts between the West and the Muslim world.

We are in the early stages of what the Centcom commander, Gen. John Abizaid, calls "the first war of globalization, between openness and closed societies." One key to winning that war, Abizaid told a small group of reporters at the Pentagon yesterday, is to expand openness and connection. He called al-Qaeda "the military arm of the closed order." The same could be said of the extremist mullahs in Tehran who are pushing for nuclear weapons.

America's best strategy is to play to its strengths—which are the open exchange of ideas, backed up by unmatched military power. The need for connection is especially clear in the case of Iran, which in isolation has remained frozen in revolutionary zealotry like an exotic fruit in aspic. Yet some in the Bush administration cling to the idea that isolation is a good thing and that connectivity will somehow weaken the West's position. That ignores the obvious lesson of the past 40 years, which is that isolation has usually failed (as in the cases of Cuba and North Korea), while connectivity has usually succeeded (as in the cases of the Soviet Union and China).

A telling example was the decision to engage the Soviet Union in 1973 through the

Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. At the time, some conservatives argued that it was a dangerous concession that the Soviets might interpret as a symbol of weakness. But the OSCE provided a crucial forum for dissidents in Russia and Eastern Europe, and with astonishing speed the mighty edifice of Soviet power began to crumble. Similar warnings about showing weakness in the face of an aggressive adversary were voiced when President Richard Nixon went to China in February 1972.

I cite this Cold War history because the moment has come for America to attempt to engage revolutionary Iran. The invitation for such a dialogue came this month in a letter to President Bush from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—a man whose rabble-rousing, Israel-baiting career gave him the credentials, if that's the right word, to break a 27-year Iranian taboo on contacts with the Great Satan.

Ahmadinejad's letter clearly had the backing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In the American context, that's like having the support of Vice President Cheney for a peace feeler. My own Iranian sources say there is broad consensus in Tehran that it is time for talks with the United States. "Iran wants to start discussions the same way the Chinese wanted discussions" with Nixon, an Iranian businessman named Ali Eftefagh told me in an e-mail this week. "Great Satan doesn't sell anymore. More than half the population was not born 27 years ago, and the broken record does not play well." The Iranian offer of dialogue, he says, "ought to be taken as an opportunity, if only to air out grievances and amplify differences."

I suspect Iran wants dialogue now partly because it perceives America's position in Iraq as weak and its own as strong. That may be true, but so what? Washington should still take yes for an answer. The United States and its European allies this week are crafting a package that, one hopes, will include everything the Iranian people could want—except nuclear weapons. The bundle of goodies should stress connectivity—more air travel to Iran, more scholarships for students, more exchanges, Iranian membership in the World Trade Organization. The mullahs may well reject these incentives as threatening, but that's the point. Their retrograde theocracy can't last long in an open world. This very week, about 40 police officers were injured in a clash with demonstrators at two Tehran universities. One of the hand-lettered protest signs captured in an Iranian photo said: "This is not a seminary, it is a university."

Karim Sadjadpour, an Iranian analyst with the International Crisis Group, noted in Senate testimony last week that opinion polls show 75 percent of Iranians favor relations with the United States. "Embarking on a comprehensive dialogue with Iran would provide the U.S. with the opportunity to match its rhetorical commitment to Iranian democracy and human rights with action," Sadjadpour said. He's right.

There's no guarantee that a policy of engagement will work. The Iranian regime's desire to acquire nuclear weapons may be so unyielding that Tehran and Washington will remain on a collision course. But America and its allies will be in a stronger position for responding to Iranian calls for dialogue. Openness isn't a concession by America, it's a strategic weapon.

TRIBUTE TO CANDY SCHNEIDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Candy Schneider who is retiring after 33 years of service in the Clark County School District.

Candy has been a teacher of art, humanities and the academically talented at the junior school level as well as a Visual Arts Administrative Specialist for grades K–12 for over three decades. During her career as an educator, Candy has served as the Assistant Director for the School-Community Partnership Program, Chairwoman of the Nevada Arts Council, and Chair of the Arts in Education. Among Candy's many achievements, she has been honored with the Nevada Educator of the Year award, the Excellence in Education Award and a National Gallery of Art State Scholarship. She is also a member of the Arts Council of Henderson and an honorary member of the Henderson Art Association. In addition, Candy has done a tremendous service to my office by coordinating the Congressional Art Contest for the Third Congressional District of Nevada.

Through the years, Candy has served on a variety of local, regional, and national boards and committees including the National Art Educators Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, Nevada School for the Arts, and a host of Clark County School District committees. It is through her work with these institutions that she and I have become good friends. Candy is a lovely woman who pours all her heart and energy into expanding and enriching humanities and art-oriented programs for the children of Clark County.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Candy Schneider for her years of dedicated service to the students in the Clark County School District. Her passion for arts education has truly enriched the lives of the students, colleagues and community members who have been inspired by her over the years. I wish her the best in her retirement.

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL
TAIWAN SYMPOSIUM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the Taiwan Chapter of the Democratic Pacific Union will sponsor a symposium this summer (August 12–14) in Taipei, Taiwan. The symposium will include topics such as legislative and democracy, legislature and the electoral process, legislative procedures and rules, legislature and campaign finance. All these topics are very timely and relevant to the legislative process.

Taiwan's efforts in promoting democracy throughout the Pacific regions are laudatory. In addition to the upcoming symposium, the Taiwan Chapter of the Democratic Pacific Union has sponsored other worthy programs such as a training program on hazard mitigation with emphasis on typhoon-related disasters and fellowships for students from Democratic Pacific Union member states to study in

Taiwan as well as invitations to distinguished women throughout the Pacific regions to come to Taiwan to discuss women's issues.

Best wishes to the Taiwan chapter of the Democratic Pacific Union on their upcoming conference.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on yesterday, June 7, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast votes. On rollcall No. 227, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 228, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 229, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 230, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 231, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 232, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 233, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 234, I would have voted "yes."

COMMENDING AMERICAN CRAFT
BREWERS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of America's craft brewers. Our culture, our economy, and our communities have all benefited from the contributions craft brewers have made. The craft beer segment includes more than 1,300 small, traditional and independent breweries.

We have seen a boost in sales and growth for these small business entrepreneurs in recent years. This consumer appeal has created thousands of quality jobs in our country,

helped stimulate a demand for American beer exports, and promoted our agricultural economy.

In recent years, breweries and brew pubs have flourished across the Nation. And, as the Representative from Oregon's fourth district, I have enjoyed seeing the diversity that craft brewery has fueled across the Nation. They bring with their craft a healthy dose of friendly competition and a loyal clientele base that appreciates their craft-made lagers and ales.

The pioneering spirit of Oregon lives on with its craft brewers. Oregon continues to enjoy more breweries per capita than any other State in the Nation. Even with Oregon having only 1 percent of the Nation's population, it is home to 7 percent of America's breweries and brew pubs. Five of those breweries are among the 50 biggest in the Nation.

In addition to their sales success, many of these small businesses support innumerable community-based charities, public institutions, local events and charities. Small craft brewers successfully balance that dedication between the quality of their beer and the quality of their community.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 753 in recognition of America's Craft Brewers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. HERBERT E. SMITH OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy I announce the passing of Dr. Herbert E. Smith on June 2, 2006 at the age of 76. Dr. Smith was an educator and spent most of his life in the teaching profession to help young people build the foundation for future success. He was also a dedicated Hoosier who gave back much to his community.

Dr. Smith was born in Sterling Township in Crawford County, Indiana on July 12, 1929.

He graduated from English High School in 1947. He went on to earn a Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate Degrees from Indiana University in Bloomington. Following completion of his own studies, he taught at all different levels ranging from Junior High through the college level in Indiana, Nebraska and Iowa.

Many Universities were honored to have Dr. Smith as an educator. He was an instructor at the University of Nebraska, Indiana University, I.U. Kokomo, I.U. Southeast at New Albany, and IUPUI in Indianapolis. He spent an astounding 34 years at Indiana University and 20 of those years serving as Assistant Dean of Students.

Besides his dedication to teaching, Dr. Smith was an active member of the community. He was a long time member of many local organizations. Dr. Smith was a 50-year member of Crawford Lodge #470 at English, Indiana, the Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis, and the Shrine of North America.

Dr. Smith never stopped trying to help his community. In 2000, he created a Public Radio Station, WBRO in Marengo, Indiana, to provide the best Public Radio programming available. WBRO broadcasts many public affairs, news, and discussion programs along with local sporting events.

The work put forth during his life did not go unnoticed. Dr. Smith was recognized by many for his contributions including the Key to the City of Indianapolis, "Distinguished Hoosier" award and the highest honor in Indiana, the "Sagamore of the Wabash." In addition, Dr. Smith was appointed a "Kentucky Colonel" by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, "Aide De-Camp, Governor's Staff" by Tennessee and "Admiral, Great Navy of Nebraska".

Indiana lost a hardworking and honorable man. Dr. Smith's dedication and commitment to helping others should be an example for others to follow. He led a successful life personally and professionally. I know he will be missed by those around him and the people he touched.