

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of United States foreign assistance is to strengthen the foundation for international stability by fostering civil society, supporting the development of free markets and institutions that foster self-determination, and helping the vulnerable by bringing healing, hope, and sustainable basic sustenance to those in need. As the leading provider of foreign assistance worldwide, the United States has made extraordinary strides toward alleviating suffering throughout the world. I would like to thank Chairman KOLBE for his hard work on this legislation to further this mission. He has shown great leadership and outstanding commitment to promoting our international initiatives.

I also wish to bring attention to the fact that this year's report on the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill confirms violations of the Tiahrt Amendment by an organization funded by the United States in Guatemala.

In passing the Tiahrt Amendment, which sets out clear criteria for voluntarism in family planning, the United States Congress worked to protect families throughout the world from the humiliation and indignity of coercion. I commend my colleague, Congressman TIAHRT, for his foresight in developing this amendment, which serves the important purpose of preventing the imposition of procedures under duress and without an explanation to participants of the potential risks involved.

Apparently the organization referenced in the report aggressively targeted women for sterilization, setting out numerical targets and offering financial incentives contrary to U.S. law. Although the system of financial incentives that occasioned the violations discovered in June 2005 has been terminated, we must work to ensure that this type of episode is not repeated and that investigations of such potential violations are vigorously thorough and unquestionably objective.

I believe that U.S. foreign assistance should not be used as a vehicle for imposing programs which potentially compromise the health of recipients, violate their consciences, or break laws of recipient nations which aim to affirm human dignity. On behalf of those we

strive to assist, I urge my colleagues in Congress, the Administration, and the United States Agency for International Development, as well as the constituents we serve, to work earnestly to uphold this purpose.

And thank you again, Congressman KOLBE, for your leadership in international affairs, and for your selfless dedication to leveraging the gifts of our great country for the betterment of the international community.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit these charts for the RECORD during the debate on the Point of Order that I raised against H. Res. 850 providing for the consideration of H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006. The charts are compiled by the Alliance for Community Media detailing how 49 local franchising authorities in 13 States will lose huge percentages of their annual PEG funding under the COPE Act.

ANNUAL PEG SUPPORT FUNDING FROM CABLE COMPANIES

Franchise area	Current PEG annual funding ¹ (excluding state law-mandated franchise fee of \$1.20/sub/year to State and LFA)*	PEG annual funding under HR 5252 and SB 2686 (1% of gross revenues)	Potential PEG annual funding loss under HR 5252 and SB 2686
Massachusetts:			
Barnstable, Yarmouth, Chatham, Dennis, Harwich	\$1,714,482 (\$1,663,982 [4.5% of gross revenues] plus allocation of \$505,000 in initial grants)	\$369,774	\$1,344,708 (78%)
Cambridge	\$1,215,148 (\$965,148 in 2005, plus \$150,000/yr. grant, plus allocation of \$1,000,000 capital grant)	193,030	1,022,118 (84%)
Newton	\$974,502 (\$833,502 [4% of gross revenues], plus \$80,000/year in other grants, plus allocation of \$610,000 in initial grants)	208,375	766,127 (79%)
Worcester	\$985,000 (\$900,000 [3% of gross revenues] plus allocation of \$850,000 in initial grants)	300,000	685,000 (70%)
Billerica	\$594,721 (\$539,721 [5% of gross revenues] plus \$55,000/year in capital grants) ..	107,944	486,777 (82%)
New Bedford	\$591,098 (3% of gross revenues)	197,033	394,065 (67%)
Malden	\$457,500 (\$400,000 in 2005 plus allocation of \$575,000 initial capital grant)	96,970	360,530 (79%)
Plymouth-Kingston	\$443,050 (\$410,000 [3% of gross revenues] plus allocation of \$330,500 in initial grants)	136,667	306,383 (69%)
Norwood	\$335,000 (\$305,000 [5% of gross revenues] plus allocation of \$300,000 in initial grants)	61,000	274,000 (82%)
Fall River	\$385,000 (2% of gross revenues)	192,500	192,500 (50%)
Holliston	\$131,998 (\$106,998 [5% of gross revenues] plus \$25,000/year in other grants)	21,400	110,598 (84%)
Carver	\$82,300 (\$74,000 [3% of gross revenues] plus allocation of \$83,000 in initial grants)	24,667	57,633 (70%)

Franchise area	Current PEG annual funding (excluding franchise fees)*	PEG annual funding under HR 5252 and SB 2686 (1% of gross revenues)	PEG annual funding loss under HR 5252 and SB 2686
Minnesota:			
St. Paul	\$1,437,000 (\$761,000 for operations, \$676,000 for equipment)	361,000	1,076,000 (75%)
Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Roseville, Shoreview, St. Anthony	\$1,046,023 (\$951,629 operating grant, \$94,394 equipment grant)	218,022	828,001 (79%)
Birchwood, Dellwood, Grant, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North Saint Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Willernie	\$811,000 (\$771,000 for operations, \$40,000 for equipment)	222,000	589,000 (73%)
Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Ham Lake, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Spring Lake Park	\$591,190 (for operations and equipment)	139,188	452,002 (76%)
Eagan, Burnsville	\$647,982 (for operations and equipment)	225,237	422,745 (65%)
Andover, Anoka, Champlin, Ramsey	\$357,000 (\$311,000 for operations, \$46,000 for equipment)	125,506	231,494 (65%)
Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, Robbinsdale	\$716,266 (for operations and equipment)	500,000	216,266 (30%)
Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, West St. Paul	\$293,000 (\$235,000 for operations, \$58,000 for equipment)	135,000	158,000 (54%)
Cities of Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, Bayport, and the Townships of Baytown and Stillwater	\$109,000 (for operations and equipment)	38,300	70,700 (65%)
Maryland:			
Montgomery County	\$3,703,519 (\$2,013,993 for PEG operations plus \$236,100 for PEG capital plus \$1,453,426 for I-Net operations)	1,787,200	1,916,319 (52%)

• 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.

Franchise area	Current PEG annual funding (excluding franchise fees)*	PEG annual funding under HR 5252 and SB 2686 (1% of gross revenues)	PEG annual funding loss under HR 5252 and SB 2686
Washington, DC:			
Washington, DC	\$2,160,000	1,080,000	1,080,000 (50%)
Oregon:			
Portland	\$3,000,000 (3% of gross revenues)	1,000,000	2,000,000 (67%)
Multnomah County	\$561,000 (3% of gross revenues)	187,000	374,000 (67%)
Salem	\$400,000 (1.5% of gross revenues)	265,000	135,000 (34%)
McMinnville	\$73,297 (\$1.00 per subscriber per month)	43,215	30,082 (41%)
Virginia:			
Fairfax County	\$4,500,000 (3% of gross revenues)	1,500,000	3,000,000 (67%)
Arlington County	\$1,439,000 (\$855,000/year; plus \$584,000 in 2005—1% of gross revenues)	591,500	847,500 (59%)
Arizona:			
Tucson	\$1,500,000 (\$1.35 per subscriber per month)	700,000	800,000 (53%)
Michigan:			
Bloomfield Township	\$313,243 (3% of gross revenues plus \$33,500 annual grant)	97,910	215,333 (69%)
California:			
Santa Maria & Lompoc	\$464,000 (\$395,000 in 2005; plus allocation of \$69,000/year, from \$828,000 initial grant)	142,200	321,800 (69%)
Glendale	\$613,333 (\$600,000 in 2005; plus allocation of \$13,333/year, from \$200,000 initial grant)	300,000	313,333 (51%)
Ventura	\$350,292 (\$263,625 in 2005; plus allocation of \$86,667/year from \$1,040,000 in Yrs. 1–3 grants)	146,050	204,242 (58%)
Gilroy, Hollister, San Juan Bautista	\$259,471 (\$189,471 in 2005; plus allocation of \$70,000/year, from \$700,000 initial grant)	63,157	196,314 (76%)
Monterey	\$231,622 (\$151,622 in 2005; plus allocation of \$80,000/year, from \$800,000 initial grant)	68,571	163,051 (70%)
Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton	\$304,292 (88 cents per subscriber per month)	163,902	140,393 (46%)
Humboldt County, Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Ferndale, Blue Lake, Rio Dell	\$293,750 (\$200,000/year; plus allocation of \$93,750/year, from \$750,000 in Yrs. 1–2 grants)	180,000	113,750 (39%)
Oceanside	\$487,333 (\$214,000 in 2005; plus allocation of \$273,333/year from \$4,100,000 in Yrs. 1–3 grants)	389,538	97,795 (20%)
Santa Rosa	\$316,667 (\$150,000/year; plus allocation of \$166,667/year, from \$2,500,000 in other grants during franchise term)	260,000	56,667 (18%)
Monrovia	\$83,000 (\$46,000 plus 1% of gross revenues)	37,000	46,000 (55%)
Lawndale	\$60,000 (2% of gross revenues)	30,000	30,000 (50%)
Ohio:			
Cincinnati	\$756,000 (\$0.96 per subscriber per month)	497,956	258,044 (34%)
Forest Park, Greenhills, Springfield Township	\$161,665 (\$1.06 per subscriber per month)	118,682	42,983 (27%)
Wisconsin:			
West Allis	\$200,000 (annual grant)	104,400	95,600 (48%)
River Falls	\$44,500 (\$1.32 per subscriber per month)	15,790	28,710 (65%)
Madison	\$388,000 (\$0.60 per subscriber per month)	360,000	28,000 (7%)
Illinois:			
Urbana	\$162,536 (2% of gross revenues)	81,268	81,268 (50%)
Kansas:			
Salina	\$135,000 (70 cents per subscriber per month)	95,549	39,451 (29%)

¹ Massachusetts State law currently provides that any funding above the state mandated fees be spent on communications operations including PEG, I-Net and others. This chart anticipates state law changing to allow franchise fees to be used for other purposes.

* In addition to the annual PEG support funding described in this chart, other PEG and in-kind services resources are often provided by cable companies that serve these communities, including connections for program origination from multiple locations, free cable modem service, promotional assistance (e.g., ad avails, program listings on TV Guide channel, annual bill-stuffers), Institutional Networks, etc.

RECOGNIZING AARON SCOTT McRUER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Scott McRuer, 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.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron 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 Aaron Scott McRuer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL ECONOMICS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 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 stock 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 American 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 24–30, 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 market. 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.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BEN F. PARMER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ben F. Parmer. Mr. Parmer was a dear man who I admired greatly, and I am proud to stand before you today to honor his memory and deeds. "Uncle Ben," as he was fondly known, was a lifelong resident of Burlington, Colorado, and throughout his lifetime the people of Kit Carson County were truly blessed to have known him.

Ben married his lovely wife Mildred in 1937. Both he and Mildred had a strong faith and deep love for each other. Through hard times and raising children they never lost sight of their faith. Ben and Mildred had three beautiful children: Paul who preceded Ben in death, and his beautiful daughters Tony and Judy. Their devoted children were always extremely proud of their parents. Ben and Mildred celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary just a few months before Mildred's passing.

During their marriage, Ben was a farmer, rancher, and a man of strong conviction. As a

farmer Ben was successful, and as a rancher he was well known for the excellence of his white-faced Herefords. He also raised hogs and on occasion, sheep. Every success that Ben had from his family to his business dealings showed the conviction to do what was right and to do it right the first time.

Ben's philanthropic efforts did not go unnoticed by his community. The park in the city of Burlington hosts his name and the "Golden Wheat Award" that was given in recognition for his service and involvement with the Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital. It is said that Ben spent many hours comforting the patients and sharing the Word of the Lord. The Kit Carson Memorial Hospital was not the only place that Ben was able to minister; it is quite notable that the only State he did not minister in was the State of Vermont.

Ben was a man of courage and strength and admired by those around him. He was undaunted by doubt and his faith always prevailed. Ben F. Parmer was a loving husband, wonderful father, a man of incredible faith and integrity. He is deeply missed by his family and community. It was an honor to not only know him and attend his church and receive his teaching, but to have represented him in the U.S. Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT
OF 2007 (H.R. 5386)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2007, H.R. 5386. As a vigorous supporter of our national parks and natural resources, I object to this bill's dangerous cuts and I regret the message of waning support for our natural treasures that it sends to the youngest generation of Americans.

H.R. 5386 provides \$25.9 billion for federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This bill represents a \$145 million cut from the funding level enacted for fiscal year 2006. It eliminates the successful and popular state matching grants, which are delivered through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It cuts \$200 million in federal assistance to the clean water activities of states—over the last 3 years, the Clean Water Fund has been cut by 50 percent, or over \$660 million.

H.R. 5386 also cuts \$100 million from the National Park Service's budget at a time when parks are struggling to cope with past reductions. The number of rangers in Yosemite National Park has fallen from 45 to 8 over the past 5 years. These dramatic reductions make it impossible for the remaining rangers to fulfill their vital and far reaching duties, which include educational programming, ensuring safety and security and management of historical, cultural and natural resources. Visitors to America's National Parks this summer are saddened to see that Congress has made

America's cherished park ranger the most recent addition to the endangered species list. ABC news reports that the number of rangers has dwindled to a point where visitors are now seen photographing them.

In reality, these cuts represent a pattern of calculated disinvestment in the agencies and programs that exist to protect the health of our communities and safeguard our natural resources for future generations. Year after year of cuts to environmental and natural resource spending are seriously eroding the ability of these agencies to improve our air and water quality and to protect and restore our wildlife and natural spaces.

The Bush administration and the Republican leadership in Congress are choosing to mortgage America's natural resource legacy to pay for the spiraling costs of the Iraq war and the unconscionable tax cuts to the wealthiest in our society. These decisions do not reflect my priorities or the priorities of my constituents in Minnesota.

I join the National Audubon Society, National Parks Conservation Association and many other conservation organizations in opposing H.R. 5386 as insufficient, unsustainable and unacceptable.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY MORROW

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bobby Morrow, of South Texas, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his shattering Jesse Owens' 20-year-old record in the 200-meter dash to gain the title of world's fastest person in 1956. Mr. Morrow is a legendary athlete and hero to people all over South Texas and the country.

As a native of South Texas, Bobby Morrow began his long and distinguished track career at San Benito High School in San Benito, Texas. There Mr. Morrow won a state championship in the 100-meter dash. His high school success soon brought many offers from universities to run track in college. Bobby Morrow chose Abilene Christian College (now University) to pursue his dreams of racing.

Bobby Morrow honed his lightning starts and sharpened his skills to dominate the 100- and 200-meter dashes in the 1950s. In 1955, Mr. Morrow won the AAU national title in the 100-meter dash. The next year, in 1956, he successfully defended his 200-meter title and added an AAU championship in the 200-meter dash.

Bobby Morrow continued his excellence at the amateur level, capped off by qualifying for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, joining an American team with an established pedigree. During those 1956 Olympic Games, Morrow achieved legendary status, becoming the first person since Jesse Owens to win gold in the 100- and 200-meter races. He then won a third gold medal while anchoring the United States' worldrecord-setting 400-meter relay team.

During the 1956 Olympic games, Morrow not only won gold medals, but he won them in record breaking fashion. Morrow gained the title of "world's fastest person" by breaking Jesse Owens 200-meter world-record time that had stood for 20 years.

Morrow's accomplishments were widely celebrated in South Texas and all across the United States. Mr. Morrow appeared on the cover of Life Magazine; and Sports Illustrated named him the "Sportsman of the Year." Morrow also received the Sullivan Award, given each year to honor the nation's top athlete.

Throughout the years, Bobby Morrow has continued to accumulate honors and accolades that celebrate his incredible athletic career. In 1975, Morrow was inducted to the USA Track & Field Hall of Fame. He was honored by his alma mater when Abilene Christian University placed him in the school's Sports Hall of Fame in 1988. In 1989, Morrow was also elected into the Olympic Hall of Fame.

Bobby Morrow has been an inspiration to thousands of people in South Texas and across America. His accomplishments on the track have been celebrated and will be celebrated for many years to come. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in celebrating Mr. Bobby Morrow on the 50th anniversary of his world-record-setting race.

RECOGNIZING BRETT JAMES MAIN
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett James Main, 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.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brett 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 Brett James Main for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MIGRATION, BENEFICIAL? YES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article by Mr. Warren Hoge, titled Nations Benefit From Migration, U.N. Study Says, published in the New York Times on June 7, 2006.

Mr. Hoge cites Mr. Kofi Annan in calling for broad international cooperation in order to ensure rapid growth in global migration. A recent United Nations study has shown that migrants provide strong socio-economic support for their country of origin as well as their new home nation. "The alarm over the growing number of migrants has cast the issue in a negative light." The aging populations in developing countries are offset by the influx of immigrants. Currently in developed countries

there is an average of 142 entrants into the labor force for every 100 people about to retire but the report predicts that in 10 years the number of entrants will become as low as 87. This deficit can easily be filled by immigrants since on average the developing countries have 342 entrants for every 100 retirements.

Mr. Annan calls for "tightening law enforcement to curb smuggling and trafficking, easing visa and naturalization rules, and establishing reliable financial services" to better the conditions of the immigrant. The U.N. study clearly shows the advantages of immigration. In light of such evidence, how can the United States, the leading nation of the world, choose to impose harsh measures that curb immigration?

My colleagues, let us create an open immigration policy for our national borders and ease the integration of immigrants into the U.S. rather than build a wall to keep everyone out.

NATIONS BENEFIT FROM MIGRATION, U.N.
STUDY SAYS

(By Warren Hoge)

UNITED NATIONS, June 6.—Secretary General Kofi Annan said Tuesday that the rapid growth in global migration should help, not harm, all countries but that broad international cooperation would be necessary to ensure it.

"We now understand better than ever before that migration is not a zero-sum game," Mr. Annan said. "In the best cases, it benefits the receiving country, the country of origin and migrants themselves."

He made his comments in a report he delivered to the General Assembly on migration and development, subjects that will be a focus of the annual gathering of heads of state at the United Nations in September.

The report noted that alarm over the growing numbers of migrants had cast the issue in a negative light but asserted that the emphasis was misplaced, citing the aging of populations in developed countries that it said could be offset only by migration.

"We think that societies don't ask themselves enough what they would do without migrants," said Hania Zlotnik, director of the United Nations Population Division.

Mr. Annan said he hoped the September meeting would take up measures to better conditions for migrants, including tightening law enforcement to curb smuggling and trafficking, easing visa and naturalization rules, and establishing reliable financial services to enable money to be sent home.

From 1990 to 2005, the numbers of migrants in the world rose to 191 million from 155 million, the report said. It estimated that migrants sent \$232 billion home in 2005. Of that, \$167 billion went to developing countries, Mr. Annan said.

The report said that migration sometimes reduced the wages of low-skilled workers in advanced economies, but that it more often freed citizens to perform high-paying jobs.

Listing demographic statistics that will make a continued rise in migration inevitable, the report said that in developed countries there is an average of 142 young entrants to the labor force for every 100 people about to retire, but that in 10 years, the ratio will be 87 young entrants for every 100 who leave the labor force.

This trend, it argued, creates a deficit that only migrants can close. At the same time, developing countries will have 342 candidates for every 100 jobs that open up.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT
HENRY JOSEPH CORNELLISSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and self sacrifice of Master Sergeant Henry Joseph Cornelliison of Greeley, Colorado because of his service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Cornelliison was born on February 27, 1920 and was raised in central Kansas. A year after he graduated from high school, in May 1938, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was sent to the Philippines several months later. By July of 1941, he had been promoted to Sergeant. On May 10, 1945, he was captured by the Japanese on the Philippine island of Mindanao and spent the next 1,218 days as a prisoner of war in Japan.

He was finally liberated from prison on September 6, 1945, exactly six years to the day from when he joined the Army Air Corps. After returning home to the United States, he decided to reenlist in the Air Force after only a few months. After getting married to Ruth Jordan, he served in the Air Force for three years in Brazil and was eventually promoted to Master Sergeant. After 21 years of service in the Air Force, Mr. Cornelliison retired in 1960 and went into the inactive Air Force Reserves. By this time he and his wife had three sons.

From 1961 through 1967, he worked overhauling missiles and missile guidance systems for the Army. After that Mr. Cornelliison worked for the Air Force as an electrician until he retired in 1978. His wife Ruth, of 48 years, passed away in 1995 and he married Genie Payne a few years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Cornelliison and the other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of the "Greatest Generation," Mr. Cornelliison set aside his ambitions in service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the patriotic service of Mr. Henry Joseph Cornelliison.

RECOGNIZING SHRINERS
HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Shriners Hospital for Children in Chicago on the occasion of its 80th Anniversary. Shriners Hospitals provide excellent specialized care in pediatric orthopedics without cost to the patient, parent, or any third party and without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect.

Shriners in Chicago is an outstanding resource for our community. To commemorate its 80th anniversary, Shriners held a large celebration at the hospital. Hundreds of former patients returned to celebrate the important role Shriners played in their lives. Without the hospital's generosity, many children would have struggled to receive treatment.

Shriners hospitals also conduct research and provide for the education of physicians and other health care professionals. The hospitals treat children with congenital orthopedic deformities, problems resulting from orthopedic injuries, and diseases of the musculoskeletal system. They are also a large provider of rehabilitation therapy and plastic surgery.

The first Shriners Hospital was opened in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1922 by the Shriners of North America, a group affiliated with freemasonry. This international fraternity has approximately 400,000 men belonging to 191 Shrine centers throughout North America. Since 1922, the number of hospitals has grown to 22 including hospitals in Canada and Mexico. Their selfless dedication to children's health has made them the leading researchers in burn treatment.

The hospitals are fully funded by gifts, bequests, income from an endowment fund, hospital fund-raising events, and the annual assessment paid by every Shriner. The Shriners are proud to call the system of hospitals "The World's Greatest Philanthropy."

Since its foundation in 1926, the Chicago branch has treated over 57,000 patients. Originally founded to treat polio victims, many hospital stays lasted over a year. Today, the average stay is four days. The hospital specializes in treating children with spinal cord injuries. Chicago greatly appreciates Shriners service and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Shriners Hospital for Children for its history of dedication and service to the children of Chicago. I congratulate the staff and supporters of this important institution on its 80th Anniversary, and wish them every future success in their continuing efforts to meet the needs of Chicago's children.

HONORING BRUCE LEIBY IN
RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bruce Leiby, who is retiring after twenty-nine years of service to Prince William County Public Schools.

Mr. Leiby, the principal of Prince William County's Bel Air Elementary School since 2003, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from Temple University in Philadelphia. He began his career in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania before moving to Prince William County. In 1977, he began teaching at Stonewall Middle School in Manassas and continued teaching at Potomac High School in Dumfries. Throughout his career, he has been an assistant principal at Fred Lynn Middle School, Occoquan Elementary in Woodbridge, and Rockledge Elementary in Lake Ridge. In 1985, Leiby accepted his first position as principal of Occoquan Elementary School. In 1998, he became Bristow Elementary's first principal, guiding the school through its initial years and leading it to receive recognition as a fully-accredited institution. In 2000, due to Principal Leiby's leadership, Bristow Elementary School

won its first School of Excellence Award. After a short stint as Prince William County's curriculum supervisor for social studies of all grades, Leiby returned to school to become Bel Air Elementary's principal in 2003.

While principal of Bel Air Elementary, SOL passing scores have risen substantially. Mr. Leiby has shown himself to be an innovative educator, who inspires students and teachers alike in a nurturing and supportive environment. His leadership style is highly admired throughout the county, whether as a principal or curriculum coordinator. He has been nominated three times for the Distinguished Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year awards. He is truly an asset to the Prince William County Public School system and will be greatly missed.

Our students are our number one resource. Mr. Leiby has dedicated his life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 29 years in Prince William County, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Bruce Leiby and congratulating him on his retirement after a distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING JAMES CAMERON
JONES FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Cameron Jones, 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.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James 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 James Cameron Jones for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT
LEONEL FERNÁNDEZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an announcement for the Pan American Development Foundation's Inter-American Leadership award awarded to President Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Republic on April 28, 2006. The award is bestowed on "an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening democracy in the hemisphere and promoting economic and social development in the Americas." Undoubtedly President

Fernández, known for his forward and original thinking, is such a person. At a time of economic turmoil, he has spearheaded numerous reforms and innovations in the economy of the Dominican Republic, promising to reduce inflation, to stabilize the exchange rate and to restore investor confidence. He has largely succeeded in increasing employment opportunities and has "demonstrated a clear vision for a vibrant future for the Dominican Republic." He has worked with the PADF in promoting cross-border programs with Haiti with the goal of economic development, as well as, mitigating the hostile attitudes of the two people who share the island of Hispaniola. I praise the accomplishments of President Fernández and congratulate him on receiving this award honoring his work. I hope that he will continue his effective leadership of his nation and I wish him every success.

PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNÁNDEZ RECEIVES
PADF'S INTER-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Apr. 28.—The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) presented Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic, its 2006 Inter-American Leadership Award this evening in a ceremony at the Hotel Hilton Santo Domingo attended by business, diplomatic, and governmental leaders. The PADF Inter-American Leadership Award is bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening democracy in the hemisphere and promoting economic and social development in the Americas. Corporate support for the ceremony and dinner was provided by PADF's longtime corporate partners Stanford Financial Group, Citigroup, and Caterpillar, Inc.

PADF's President of the Board of Trustees, Ruth Espey-Romero, stated, "President Fernández's dynamic leadership and vision for his countrymen has strengthened Dominican society. He is committed to advancing his country's economic condition. The President has a clear vision for a vibrant future for the Dominican Republic and how the border can serve as an engine of growth for the entire region. His record has demonstrated his commitment to PADF's vision of 'Creating a Hemisphere of Opportunity for All.'"

PADF also presented awards to several key corporate partners whose support has enabled PADF to accomplish its work throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Representatives of Stanford Financial Group, Altria Group (including Philip Morris International and Grupo León Jimenes), and the American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti each received recognition for their support of projects throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is an international nonprofit organization established in 1962 through a unique partnership between the Organization of American States and private enterprise to promote, facilitate, and implement social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean through innovative partnerships and integrated involvement of the private and public sectors. PADF currently has offices in Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Haiti, and has operated in every country throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the Dominican Republic, PADF is working with over 80 local organizations to strengthen to the border region and encourage private sector participation in development. Funding for the programs comes from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with additional support from other public and corporate donors.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM GAYNOR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William (Bill) Gaynor whose deep patriotism and compassionate heart has brought strength and comfort to numerous military families in Logan County, Colorado.

Bill is a proud Marine who proudly served from 1958–1962. As a Vietnam vet, he went on to serve in the American Legion. Bill was Post Commander for two consecutive terms, Vice-Commander for the State of Colorado, and Vice Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National American Legion for three consecutive terms.

Bill was involved in Marine recruiting for 28 years. When a young Marine that Bill helped to recruit became seriously wounded in Iraq in 2004, Bill found a new purpose for his knowledge and background. As he helped this local family react to the crisis caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Iraq, Bill discovered that most local military families had limited knowledge of military procedures and processes. Bill, his wife Denise, and friend LuAnn Travis reacted to this need and formed the Military Family Support Group. This group has been able to locate and reach out to all of the families in the county with children or family members serving in the military. This group has met once or twice a month for almost 2 years, giving families the chance to share news, information, and concerns with each other about their loved ones.

Bill is always willing to make himself available on a moment's notice to any family—in times of celebration as well as times of crisis. Members of the military from Logan County have received hundreds of cards from local citizens, boxes of goodies and supplies, as well as cards made by school students for Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays through the efforts of the Military Family Support Group.

Marines such as Bill are trained to think independently and act aggressively with speed and initiative. Bill demonstrates this by his constant willingness to react swiftly to the needs of the local families. They turn to him because they know his heart is with his family, the American people, and the young men who serve to protect them. Bill never passes up an opportunity to honor or speak on behalf of veterans or members of the military. The United States Marines are the world's finest warriors and they are devoted to each other and the cause of freedom. Bill is in his heart and soul a United States Marine and lives the motto—'Semper Fidelis'—always faithful.

Mr. Speaker, our precious veterans are heroes who have left their homes to defend our Nation, and then returned to be valued members of their communities, showing their children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. I want to take this brief moment to honor Bill Gaynor for the sacrifices that he made and his continued commitment to all of those who serve our great Nation in the profession of arms. May God bless his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY
AND RESEARCH ACT (H.R. 4200)**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (H.R. 4200). This legislation rolls back responsible forest management practices and threatens to undermine vital environmental protections.

Proponents of H.R. 4200 claim that the bill would ensure prompt implementation of recovery measures in Federal forests following weather events such as wildfires and hurricanes by expediting the evaluation of forest conditions and accelerating the recovery of downed and damaged timber. But in reality, the legislation aggressively auctions off public resources to private interests in the name of responsible stewardship. It goes too far in promoting the economic value of harvesting timber over the ecological benefits of preserving trees.

Proponents of H.R. 4200 use the words "recovery" and "restoration" to excuse logging practices that will slow the recovery of forests, streams and wildlife. Forest scientists from 169 universities across the country oppose this bill, arguing that no reliable evidence exists to support the assertion that fire-adapted forests might be improved by logging after a fire. These experts point to a series of studies that concluded just the opposite—that post-disturbance logging impedes the process of regeneration by compacting soils, spreading invasive species, causing erosion and degrading water quality.

Most outrageously, H.R. 4200 would degrade forest ecosystems by exempting "salvage logging" activities from the environmental protections guaranteed in the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. Through exemptions and waivers, H.R. 4200 offers a blank check to pollute waters and harm endangered wildlife.

H.R. 4200 is both unwise and unnecessary. The success of the timber salvage effort following Hurricane Katrina demonstrates that existing Federal laws do not prevent land managers from implementing timber recovery. Using their existing authority, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management quickly and effectively completed one of the largest timber salvage projects ever, recovering 676 million board feet of timber from the national forests in Mississippi impacted by the hurricane.

When properly managed, timber harvesting is a necessary and appropriate use of our Federal forests. But careful environmental stewardship of our forest resources is needed today to ensure that genuinely healthy forests—with all the benefits they offer—will be available to future generations. H.R. 4200 falls dangerously short of this standard.

NIDHARSHAN ANANDASIVAM, 2006
NATIONAL SPELLING BEE, 8TH
PLACE WINNER**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nidharshan Anandasivam, the young Brownsville scholar who came painstakingly close to victory in the 2006 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, placing eighth to beat his personal best during the four years he competed in the national spelling bee contest.

As a student from Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, Nidharshan loves learning the origins of words and the way words change through different languages. This hobby helped him qualify through nine intense rounds, correctly spelling difficult words such as "physis," "festucine," and "wehrmacht."

All South Texans are proud of this native son. It is one thing to be a great speller; it is another thing to have the ability to compete on live national TV—at such a young age.

Nidharshan's success comes from his diligent studying, completing internet spelling courses and spelling study guides daily. In the weeks leading up to the competition, he studied over three hours each day. To be a young teen and have an exceptionally committed resolve for his academic pursuits demonstrate Nidharshan's maturity and hardworking nature.

This year's spelling bee featured 275 spellers, which is the most participants in the history of the spelling bee. To place eighth out of 275 participants is an incredible experience that Nidharshan can cherish for the rest of his life.

I congratulate Nidharshan Anandasivam on his achievement of placing eighth in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending this outstanding scholar for his unwavering determination and dedication. Mr. Speaker, this young teen has inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

RECOGNIZING NOAH BRANDT EBER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah Brandt Eber, 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.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah 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 Noah Brandt Eber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COLOMBIANS REDISCOVER THEIR
AFRICAN ROOTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of an article written by Howard Dodson in *Africana Heritage*, a periodical from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, in New York City. I praise the piece because it touches on a very little known subject, that being the lives of Afro-Colombians in the Americas, a people with a rich and radiant culture who are so often ignored by mainstream Colombia.

Their presence in the region dates back to the age of European exploration of the Americas and, in particular, the transatlantic slave trade. Dodson pointed out in his article that, "the Afro-Colombian population had become so marginalized that for the overwhelming majority of Colombians as well as the world's people they were invisible." With over a quarter of the population being of African descent, there is no way this society should have been treated the way they were for so many years.

He also describes how the system might now be changing: "presence of Afro-Colombians as part of the Colombian nation may be at an all time high." The Afro-Colombian people understand their history, their identity and national heritage and the need to keep it alive for the generations to come. For such a rich and vibrant culture to dissolve with time would be a detriment to an entire race of people.

What makes these people so unique is the one thing that may have kept them in isolation for so many years, their African ancestry. For years, the nation has been in denial about its connection to the people of Africa. However, the connection is so strong that, "what makes Colombia's culture distinctly Colombian is likely the African presence in it," as noted by Dodson. The people of African descent in the Americas have carried with them over the Atlantic aged traditions and concepts unknown to the western hemisphere prior to their arrival.

The plight of Afro-Descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean is one that I take special interest in, for their struggles have long gone on ignored for so many years. That was why I sponsored the bipartisan historic resolution H. Con. Res. 175 recognizing, for the first time ever, the struggles of African-descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean. This in turn urged the United States and the international community to support social development and economic programs targeting these groups.

Usually denied the most basic necessities, African-Descendent populations, particularly in Latin America, are among the poorest, least educated, and most marginalized groups in the region. In terms of the Afro-Colombian population, they have the shortest life expectancies and the lowest literacy rates of any group in Colombia. Displacement, guerilla and military violence, and fragile economics make the struggle of these groups even more difficult.

I enter into the RECORD the article by Howard Dodson for his continuing effort to give a face to the often ignored Afro-Descendent population in Latin America. Dodson took it

upon himself to research and get a first hand account about the situation below our borders. I believe that this is an ideal opportunity for African Americans to reach out to their brothers and sisters in Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Colombia and the rest of the hemisphere, for they are experiencing the same second-class treatment African Americans received in this country forty years ago. We need to come together to safeguard access to healthcare, education and basic human rights.

[From the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 2006]

COLOMBIANS REDISCOVER THEIR AFRICAN
ROOTS

(By Howard Dodson)

I returned to Colombia after a 40-year hiatus this past November. What was new there that I did not see during my visits from decades ago was the emergence of the consciousness of the Afro-Colombian population within the nation and an Afro-Colombian consciousness among Afro descendants. Forty years ago, indeed 10 years ago, the Afro-Colombian population had become so marginalized that for the overwhelming majority of Colombians as well as the world's people they were invisible. This is no longer the case. Consciousness of the presence of Afro-Colombians as a part of the Colombian nation may be at an all time high. And Afro-Colombians' consciousness of themselves as a critical but neglected segment of the Colombian national identity, heritage, and future is also at an all time high.

When I visited Colombia in the 1960s, I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador. All of my travels in Latin America during my two-and-a-half-year tour of duty were partially a mission of discovery. As an African American living and traveling in South America for the first time, I was especially interested in meeting and learning more about people of African descent who lived in Latin America. In Colombia, I traveled to the Caribbean and Pacific Coasts and visited Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Cali, Medellín, Manizales, etc. I also spent some time in Bogotá where I met a lot of Afro-Colombians, but at the time even they were reluctant to discuss their Africanness.

While my most recent visit was limited to Bogotá and Quibdó in the Chocó region, the context in which it occurred announced for me the existence of a new era in Afro-Colombian history and culture. The Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó, the country's major black university, has launched an initiative to establish a National Center for Documenting Afro-Colombian Cultural Expressions. I was invited, in my capacity as Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, to participate in a two-day planning symposium to continue to develop the concept and program for this new national initiative. I have devoted over 20 of the last 40 years of my life developing the Schomburg Center into the world's leading research library devoted exclusively to documenting the global black experience. Organizers of the planning symposium thought the Center's and my experiences might be helpful in developing the Center in Quibdó. Over the last decade, we've placed a special emphasis on the Afro Latino or Afro descendant populations in South and Central America.

One recent collaborative effort took place in Colombia. The staff of the National Archives of Colombia in Bogotá unearthed a plethora of historic documents on slavery and black people in Colombia during the colonial period. With funding from the Schomburg Center and York University in Toronto, Canada the Archives staff was able

to digitize these records. A grant from UNESCO made it possible to develop these digitized resources into a robust website and now these historic documents on Afro-Colombians' colonial past are accessible to the world on the Internet. This project was an important beginning, but documenting the centrality of the African presence in the development of Colombia's national history and culture will require much more research and documentation. This is what the Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó proposes to spearhead through its National Center for Documenting Afro-Colombian Cultural Expressions.

Why is such an effort warranted at this time? First of all, recent scholarship on the African presence in the Americas has unearthed a startling demographic fact that is forcing scholars to rethink their understanding of the African presence in the Americas as well as the historical and cultural development of the Americas themselves. Between 1492 and 1776, or roughly the first 300 years of what is commonly referred to as the European colonization of the Americas, 6.5 million people survived the crossing of the Atlantic and settled in the Americas—North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Of those original 6.5 million settler pioneers, only 1 million were Europeans.

The other 5.5 million were African. This simple demographic fact challenges all of our conventional notions about who were the principle history-and-culture-makers in the Americas during the colonial period.

Cartagena, Colombia was the principle entrepot for the Africans who would eventually populate the Pacific Coast of South America and Colombia (or New Grenada as it was called). Two hundred plus years later, Colombia's Caribbean and Pacific Coast provinces still have the overwhelming majority of the nation's African descended population. Their marginalized and seemingly invisible state notwithstanding, they still constitute over 25 percent of the nation's 40 million people.

Of equal importance, over the last decade and a half, thanks to the Constitution of 1991 and Law 70 of 1993, the nation has committed itself to ending black marginalization, integrating the African descended population into the national body politic. While fulfilling those commitments has been fraught with difficulty, the Afro-Colombian population has developed a new sense of entitlement and consciousness of its rights and is actively seeking to have the nation correct the consequences of centuries of neglect, discrimination, and invisibility.

While the nation has been in a state of denial about the African roots of its past, the African presence in the national culture has been undeniable. Indeed, in the realm of culture—be it art, music, religion, dance, language, cuisine, etc.—what makes Colombia's culture distinctly Colombian is likely the African presence in it. Recent scholarship has begun this process of documentation, but more, much more needs to be done if the total integration of the society is to be realized.

Finally, Afro-Colombians themselves have been in denial about their African heritages. As a consequence, they frequently know little or nothing about it. Their historical and cultural heritage are not included in the textbooks or taught in the schools. Stereotypical representations of African descended Colombians have all too frequently dominated the public media. And Afro-Colombians' unique cultural heritages have all too frequently been mocked or denigrated.

The National Center proposes to foster the development of new scholarship that will reveal the true nature of the Afro-Colombian historical and cultural legacy. The project is

off to an excellent start. During the two-day planning symposium, representatives of the National Library, The Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History, the National Archives and the Ministry of Culture were in attendance as were some of the country's leading scholars in the field of Afro-Colombian Studies. All have gone on record in support of this effort. Eduardo Garcia Vega, Director of the Universidad Tecnológica del Chocó, has made a major commitment to the effort. There is already an academic program in Afro-Colombian Studies and plans are underway to offer a Masters Degree in the field. A full floor of the new technology building that is currently under construction has been designated to house the Center. It is scheduled for completion and occupancy in June 2006. Members of the faculty and staff of the University are already working with the Rector to make the Center a reality. Finally, Georgetown University's (Washington, D.C.) Colombia Program and the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá have thrown their full support behind this effort.

Among the unique features of the Center is that it will house a 21st century archive. The Center will conduct oral histories and document through film, audio, and audiovisual media contemporary Afro-Colombian cultural expressions. And it will collect and preserve some printed records. But the central archive of the Center will be a virtual one. Using the 21st century Internet technology, the Center will assemble a comprehensive virtual archive of print, audio, and audiovisual resources documenting Afro-Colombian history and culture. Developing a virtual resource will allow libraries, museums and archives that currently house Afro-Colombian materials to participate in the development of this national program without having to give up their original materials. Once online, the materials will be accessible throughout the country as well as throughout the world. Researchers and scholars will be able to conduct their research without having to leave their homes or their institutions. This national digital archive on Afro-Colombian cultural expressions will be the centerpiece of the Center's larger program of research, education, and celebration.

I cannot begin to underscore the importance of this initiative. While we at the Schomburg Center attempt to document the global black experience, we are clear that no single institution can carry out such an ambitious agenda. Every country in the world that has large African descended populations needs a Center that is focused on preserving the records of their past. We have done an extraordinary job of documenting the African-American experience in the United States and our collections contain representative documentation of black people around the world. A national documentation center such as the one contemplated in Colombia will go a long way toward preserving the Afro-Colombian heritage for the Colombian people as well as filling this important gap in the documentation of the global black experience.

TRIBUTE TO LEILANI SPERBER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Leilani Sperber whose sunny disposition and compassionate heart touched many lives in northeast Colorado. Leilani was born in Holyoke, CO and

spent most of her life in Phillips County. She and her husband Gary taught school for a few years before settling in Holyoke where Leilani was a full-time mother and homemaker. Together they raised a daughter, Shawn and two sons, Eric and Mark.

Leilani always had time to nurture friendships and gently encourage those she encountered each day. Her generosity and deep faith led to her involvement in numerous church activities including serving on the Missions Committee, teaching Sunday School, sponsoring the youth group, helping with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes High School Huddle group, and participating in two mission trips to Mexico.

Leilani always followed wherever her strong convictions led her, but she did it with a kind heart and was always respectful of the needs and concerns of people around her. She worked on numerous community projects. She was actively involved in the Friends of the Library and served as president. She worked to get the Heginbotham Library in Holyoke in the register of historical places. She was also part of the effort to raise funds and help restore the Peerless Center in Holyoke. She was a huge supporter of local sports, especially when her husband was coaching or her children were participating. Leilani also was actively involved in the Republican Party and served as precinct chairman and delegate to the State Conventions.

When her children were out of the home, Leilani's eagerness to learn and grow led her to return to school and earn her Master's degree in agency counseling. She worked for Centennial Mental Health as a counselor before taking a position with the Haxtun Hospital as a Social Service director. While in this position, Leilani organized a cancer survivors support group.

Leilani's life was a lesson in how to enjoy life, honor God, care for others, face difficulties with courage, and make a positive impact on the world. I am proud to honor Leilani who is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. "Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the way of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many daughters have done well, but you exceed them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:25-30) Leilani was a precious, beautiful woman.

HONORING MICHAEL SCOTT

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished tenure of Michael Scott, president of the Chicago Board of Education. Michael recently announced that he will retire from the board on July 21, 2006. Chicago's public school students and parents will miss the dedication and professionalism he has brought to the public schools and his service to the city.

Michael was raised on the west side of Chicago, attended St. Philip's High School and later earned a B.A. in urban planning from Fordham University. He first became involved in local government after spending many years as a developer. His early dedication to the betterment of Chicago's communities drew attention from the late Mayor Harold Washington. Michael went on to serve in the administrations of Mayor Washington and Mayor Richard Daley.

In June 2001, Michael Scott was appointed to the Chicago Board of Education, and elected president of the board that same month. For the past 5 years, Michael has dedicated his energy and talents to this challenging and time consuming position, working on a voluntary basis. Under his direction, the Chicago Public Schools have thrived. One of Michael's key initiatives, in partnership with Mayor Daley, was Renaissance 2010, a program that closed underperforming schools and reached out to private donors to build new ones. Together they built the first new Chicago public school in 29 years.

Michael has combined strong managerial skills with an ability to bring students, parents, and teachers together to solve problems and create opportunities. He has worked very hard for the students of Chicago and cares about them deeply. His engaging personality has also helped him build strong relationships with parents and teachers.

Michael's success can be seen in the students' improved math and reading test scores. The schools have also worked hard to reduce truancy. Michael's creativity and innovation have also resulted in new programs such as ballroom dancing and other opportunities for student creativity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a true public servant on the successful completion of his tenure. On behalf of all of Chicago's families, I thank Michael Scott for his dedication and wish him the best of luck in the future.

HONORING ELIZABETH LODAL IN RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Lodal, who is retiring after 40 years of service to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Mrs. Lodal, the principal of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, studied math and physics at Rice University. She began her career as an English and history teacher; later, she was the principal of Joyce Kilmer Middle School and Langston Hughes Middle School. After her tenure in the middle school system, she served as the principal of McLean High School for 10 years. She will be retiring this August, which comes 6 years after she came out of retirement to lead Thomas Jefferson High School at the behest of Daniel Domenech, the former supervisor of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Mrs. Lodal has received numerous accolades, which are all testaments to her dedication to this community. In 1998, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma

mater, Rice University. In addition, she has received the McLean Chamber of Commerce President's Award as the Outstanding Chamber Member and she was awarded the Rabbi Richard Sternberger Social Justice Award for combating racism, bigotry and prejudice in Northern Virginia.

Mrs. Lodal is dedicated to all aspects of the county. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Opera and she is active in the American Boychoir School and Vinson Hall, a Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard retirement community. She lobbied for the renovation of McLean High School in the 1980s. She maintains a strong sense of duty to all students, as she will continue to fight for women's involvement in the math and sciences during her retirement.

Our students are our number one resource. Mrs. Lodal has dedicated her life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 40 years in Fairfax County, she has made a lasting impact on thousands of students. She will continue her remarkable career by representing Virginia as a delegate to the Education Commission of the States.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Elizabeth Lodal and congratulating her retirement after a distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING BLAINE EVAN
STECK FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blaine Evan Steck, 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.

Blaine has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blaine 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 Blaine Evan Steck for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE DISCOVERY OF AIDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of HIV/AIDS which remains a matter of global concern, even twenty-five years after the first case was diagnosed. June 5, 2006, as the world recognized the anniversary of AIDS, I am reminded that our duty as a world power is to ensure that this epidemic does not continue to devastate lives.

Present day AIDS education is lacking the appropriate resources to spread the message that this disease is preventable. Without these resources and advocates to stand for the cause, HIV/AIDS will continue to infect millions of people worldwide. It is critical that this country and its leaders begin to increase awareness nationwide so that our constituents will understand the causes as well as effects of AIDS while we continue to be outspoken in the fight to find a cure.

Furthermore, AIDS continues to ravage our communities due to the fact that there is not enough federal or state money placed into health initiatives to treat current patients or to find a cure. With the desperately needed funding for medical programs and treatment centers, many new cases can be prevented and persons who have the virus will receive affordable quality medication.

We all have a calling to service our communities by making policies that increase awareness and target funding towards HIV/AIDS. I will maintain my stance that HIV/AIDS affects us all regardless of class, race or sex. Therefore, we must present a united front in the effort to prevent this disease from spreading and remain committed to increasing appropriations for HIV/AIDS, education and treatment.

[From the Washington Post, June 2, 2006]

ANOTHER \$10 BILLION

The Generals in the global battle against HIV/AIDS are meeting at the United Nations this week, five years after another U.N. summit promised an intensified push against the crisis. The target of mobilizing \$7 billion to \$10 billion per year has been met: Last year low- and middle-income countries spent \$2.5 billion of their own money and an additional \$5.8 billion from donors on AIDS treatment and prevention and the care of orphans. But that money has bought less than expected. Rather than hitting the "three by five" target of getting medicines to 3 million people by 2005, the world has put only about 1.4 million people on treatment—a big improvement on the 240,000 who were receiving drugs in 2001 but still well less than half of the number who need medicines immediately. Equally, better-financed prevention efforts have succeeded in driving down infection rates among young adults, notably in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Haiti. But last year there were 4.1 million new infections worldwide. The plague is still advancing.

The summiters in New York therefore confront a daunting problem. The latest U.N. estimate, which may prove as optimistic as the last one, is that fighting the disease will soon require \$20 billion to \$23 billion a year, more than twice the current spending. What's more, this is not a temporary commitment: Once people go on antiretroviral treatment, they need medicines for years; caring for orphans is also a long-term proposition. Assuming that some of the extra resources will be provided by middle-income countries, the rich world may need to reach into its taxpayers' pockets for an extra \$10 billion a year. Official development assistance, which has already jumped by more than two-thirds in real terms between 2000 and 2005, would have to grow by a tenth or so.

Moreover, the effect of that money will be limited unless the world expands its commitment to other development efforts. Donor-financed AIDS programs can suck nurses and doctors out of the rest of the health system, so an increase in AIDS spending requires a parallel increase in general health investment. AIDS flourishes in poor societies because illiteracy and penury make people vul-

nerable; success against the virus depends partly on broader progress. As President Paul Kagame of Rwanda told *The Post* on Wednesday, there's no use in giving someone antiretroviral drugs if he has no food.

The imperative to raise extra money for AIDS and other development objectives raises an institutional issue. To carry out its commitments of five years ago, the world created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has raised and spent an impressive \$5 billion; the question is whether this venture should be the vehicle for the next step-up in AIDS funding. The fund's critics, notably the Bush administration, rightly say that it has suffered from poor management, that it has occasionally given money on the basis of poor grant proposals and that it has indulged grantees whose performance should have led to a suspension of disbursements. But rather than snipe at the fund, the critics should work to improve it. The fund's structure provides a way of sharing the financial burden globally. The quality of its grants has recently gone up. And centralizing AIDS finance simplifies the administrative burden on stressed officials from poor countries. The fund's entrepreneurial leader, Richard Peachment, has announced that he will leave when his term expires this year. The priority should be to find a replacement who is pushy enough to raise extra money and sawy enough to solidify the institution's management.

AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY AND
GOOD JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 5429, the so-called American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act, which attempts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to industrial development.

In March we were reminded of the potential environmental consequences of drilling in the refuge when an Alaskan pipeline leaked 200,000 gallons of crude oil onto the surrounding slope. This is the largest spill ever in the North Slope and a timely caution against opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling.

Because I have visited the Arctic Refuge and seen its unique wilderness first hand, such news strengthens my resolve to protect the refuge and press for real solutions to our country's energy challenges.

This bill would do nothing more than continue our pattern of unchecked consumption. It is another attempt to sell Americans the false promise of easy answers on energy policy.

Our energy situation will not change until Congress gets serious about tackling America's oil dependence. With the booming economies of China and India squeezing global oil supply, and political instability among key oil producing countries like Iran, Nigeria and Iraq, we should expect rising oil prices for some time to come.

This proposal to open ANWR is a short-sighted answer to a long-term problem. I urge my colleagues to vote against the rule and the underlying bill.

THE APPRECIATION OF JOSE
CORONADO

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing Mr. Jose Coronado, Director of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System to show our appreciation for his life long career in public service, culminating in ensuring the best possible health care to the veterans of South Texas.

Mr. Coronado, a U.S. Army veteran who served as Battalion Operations Sergeant in the 11th Armored Cavalry Division, was awarded both the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Outstanding Service Award.

After his service in the Army, Jose received his B.S. in Chemistry and Zoology from Texas A&I-Kingsville, and went on to earn an M.S. in Education Administration there before receiving a M.H.A. in Hospital Administration from Baylor University.

Jose Coronado then began his career in Veterans Administration to improve the care given to the thousands of Americans who risked their lives for this country. In 1962, he started with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Houston, continuing his work in Kerrville, Texas.

In 1973, Mr. Coronado became Assistant Director of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas; two years later, he was appointed Hospital Director. There, he served America's veterans for 20 years, ensuring the efforts and sacrifices of America's warriors would not be forgotten. He contributed to saving the lives of countless veterans through improved services.

When the Kerrville and Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospitals merged in 1995, Jose Coronado directed the new South Texas Veterans Health Care System. He has overseen an extensive network of health care delivers and operated an intricate health care system with many varying divisions of expertise.

As Director, Jose Coronado was recognized many times for the outstanding service he provided to America's veterans. He was awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives by both Ronald Reagan and George Bush. In 1999, President Bill Clinton presented Mr. Coronado with the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives.

While Jose received countless awards over the years, his distinguished character and his quiet ability to find solutions for our veterans were central to his dedicated service to the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in celebrating Mr. Jose Coronado's commitment to those veterans who dedicated their lives for American freedom. His tireless efforts have provided the medical assistance that South Texas veterans earned from uniformed service to our country.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ANTHONY
CLIZER FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Anthony Clizer, 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.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John 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 John Anthony Clizer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER NICHOLAS
KRISTOF: INTRODUCING
AMERICANS TO AFRICA—ONE
ASPIRING JOURNALIST AT A TIME

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a column by Nicholas Kristof: "The Drumroll, Please" in the May 23, 2006 edition of The New York Times and his column of March 26, 2006 entitled "A Woman Without Importance."

Mr. Kristof uses his New York Times column to bring to our attention important, little known and neglected human rights causes. In the past 12 months many of these causes have come from Mr. Kristof's observations during his many trips to countries in Africa. As a persistent, compassionate journalist advocating for women's rights in Africa, Mr. Kristof has no peer. To me, he is a quiet but powerful voice forcing our recognition that women and girls are without basic human rights in many countries in Africa and other countries as well such as Vietnam, Thailand, and Pakistan.

In a column of March 26, 2006, Mr. Kristof wrote about Aisha Parveen who at the age of 14 was living in northwest Pakistan when she was hit over the head while walking to school. She awoke to find herself imprisoned in a brothel where she was tortured and imprisoned for 6 years. When she escaped she married a man who helped her. The brothel owner sued the couple claiming he had married the 14-year-old Aisha Parveen. She was accused of adultery and was ordered to go back to the brothel owner.

Girls in Africa are often sold as sex slaves or servants. In some countries girls are inherited or used to payoff debts. Marriages are arranged for them when they are as young as 12 years. They have babies before their bodies are able to deliver a child vaginally. With no medical help most labor for days to deliver a dead baby and are left with terrible birth in-

juries. If the mother is incontinent because of an injury called a fistula she is shunned by her family and her husband forced to live away from the village.

Mr. Kristof won the Pulitzer Prize for risking his life returning to the Darfur region of southern Sudan again and again to tell the stories of the people suffering from the remaining victims of a concerted effort by the Arab government in Khartoum to eliminate every last one of them. Kristof has chronicled genocide in Darfur as it has continued unabated for three years and goes on now in spite of a newly signed peace accord brokered in part by the United States.

Kristof has told the personal stories of people who have suffered from the rampages of the Janjaweed, the proxy murderers of the Government of Sudan in Khartoum. He has personalized the murders, the maiming, the rapes, the killing of children, by telling the heart breaking stories of people who have lost their homes, their children and parents, husbands and wives, their livestock, their lands and their freedom.

Perhaps because so little print had been spent on Darfur, Mr. Kristof, decided people were not familiar enough with Africa to become sympathetic to the plight of people who are targets of a ruthless, cruel genocide.

Maybe Mr. Kristof had the idea that more students should make travel to other countries part of their college education and more universities should offer such trips. As he announced in his video a "win a trip" contest in March he felt he got a great education from his trips when he was a student that he was sponsoring a "win a trip" competition because he had learned so much from his trips to other countries while he was a student that he felt more students needed to experience life in other countries. Kristof's idea of visiting other countries is visiting places where the people of the country live, not visiting tourist places like Paris and London.

In Mr. Kristof's video announcing the "win a trip" contest, the camera views him from above as he appears to be standing on a wide sand beach. Mr. Kristof begins by talking about spring breaks and how many American college students spend their spring breaks and summers reveling beaches. But as the camera closes in, it become clear Mr. Kristof is not on a beach and not near an American city or village recognizable to most Americans until the camera broadens its view to take in a skinny donkey with a rider and a few people wearing the long draped clothes and hoods common to desert peoples who are always needing protection from a brutal, relentless sun.

For years Mr. Kristof has used his column in the Times to chronicle the continuing slow genocide in Darfur with the individual stories of people who have been maimed, raped and had children killed in front of them and to stop the genocide in Darfur. He has told the stories of the individuals who have lost everything they had; families, homes, livestock and parents. He has traveled to places in Africa where women are the least of the least and has chronicled stories of women who are shunned by their families if they are raped or worse go to jail even though they are the victims of crime.

The fact that 3,800 aspiring journalists from universities around the country applied to accompany Mr. Kristof on an admittedly "rough" reporting trip to "a neglected area in Africa"

speaks volumes about the esteem in which these students hold Mr. Kristof. The number of applicants wanting to go to Africa gives me enormous hope for Africa and our country. There is no better way for Americans to know Africa than to go there. And for those who will not be able to go themselves they will benefit from the journalists like Casey Parks the winner of the first "win a trip" contest who is accompanying Mr. Kristof this summer to Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

My wish for Ms. Parks is that she has a long career as a journalist who will write so intimately and well of her journey, that the people of Africa will be seen as individual human beings to her readers. My hope for Mr. Kristof is that he is able to take a different aspiring journalist every year and convince Universities and colleges around the country of the value of establishing programs for students to live in countries they will not visit as tourists to see how the people of these countries live their lives.

[From the New York Times, May 23, 2006]

THE DRUMROLL, PLEASE
(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

In March I opened a "win a trip" contest, offering to take a university student with me on a rough reporting trip to a neglected area in Africa.

Some 3,800 applications poured in, accompanied by boxes of supplementary materials, ranging from senior theses to nude photos. After weeks of sifting through the applications, I finally have a winner.

She is Casey Parks of Jackson, Miss.—an aspiring journalist who has never traveled abroad. We'll get her a passport and a bunch of vaccinations—ah, the glamour of overseas travel—and start planning our trip.

Casey, who turned 23 on Friday, attended Millsaps College in Jackson and is now a graduate student in journalism at the University of Missouri. She has won a string of awards for her essays and other writing.

In her essay, Casey wrote about growing up poor: "I saw my mother skip meals. I saw my father pawn everything he loved. I saw our cars repossessed. I never saw France or London." (The essays by Casey and a dozen finalists are posted at nytimes.com/winatrip.)

"I so desperately want to leave this country and know more," she wrote. Now she'll have the chance.

We'll most likely start in Equatorial Guinea, bounce over to Cameroon and travel through a jungle with Pygmy villages to end up in the Central African Republic—one of the most neglected countries in the world. We'll visit schools, clinics and aid programs, probably traveling in September for 10 days. Casey will write a blog about it for nytimes.com and will also do a video blog for MTV-U.

But the point of this contest wasn't to give one lucky student the chance to get malaria and hookworms. It's to try to stir up a broader interest in the developing world among young people.

One of our country's basic strategic weaknesses is that Americans don't understand the rest of the world. We got in trouble in Vietnam and again in Iraq partly because we couldn't put ourselves in other people's shoes and appreciate their nationalism.

According to Foreign Policy magazine, 92 percent of U.S. college students don't take a foreign language class. Goucher College in Baltimore bills itself as the first American college to require all students to study abroad, and the rest should follow that example.

So for all the rest of you who applied for my contest, see if you can't work out your

own trips. Or take a year off before heading to college or into a job. You'll have to pay for your travel, but you can often find "hotels" for \$5 a night per person in countries like India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Morocco, Bolivia and Peru—and in rural areas, people may invite you to stay free in their huts. To get around, you can jump on local buses.

Is it safe? Not entirely, for the developing world has more than its share of pickpockets, drunken soldiers, scorpions, thugs, diseases, parasites and other risks.

Twenty-two years ago, as a backpacking student, I traveled with a vivacious young American woman who, like me, was living in Cairo. She got off my train in northern Sudan; that evening, the truck she had hitched a ride in hit another truck. Maybe if there had been an ambulance or a doctor nearby, she could have been saved. Instead, she bled to death.

So, yes, be aware of the risks, travel with a buddy or two, and carry an international cellphone. But remember that young Aussies, Kiwis and Europeans take such a year of travel all the time—women included—and usually come through not only intact, but also with a much richer understanding of how most of humanity lives.

There are also terrific service options. Mukhtar Mai, the Pakistani anti-rape activist I've often written about, told me she would welcome American volunteers to teach English in the schools she has started. You would have to commit to staying six weeks or more, but would get free housing in her village. You can apply by contacting www.Aanaa.org.

Then there's New Light, a terrific anti-trafficking organization in Calcutta. Urmi Basu, who runs it, said she would welcome American volunteers to teach English classes to the children of prostitutes. You would have to stay at least six weeks and budget \$15 a day for food and lodging; for more information go to www.uddami.org/newlight.

In the 21st century, you can't call yourself educated if you don't understand how the other half lives—and you don't get that understanding in a classroom. So do something about your educational shortcomings: fly to Bangkok.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 26, 2006]

A WOMAN WITHOUT IMPORTANCE

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

KHANPUR, PAKISTAN.—Aisha Parveen doesn't matter. She's simply one more impoverished girl from the countryside, and if her brothel's owner goes ahead and kills her, almost no one will care.

Ms. Parveen, an outspoken 20-year-old woman with flashing eyes, is steeling herself for a state administered horror. Just two months after she escaped from the brothel in which she was tortured and imprisoned for six years, the courts are poised to hand her back to the brothel owner.

Sex trafficking, nurtured by globalization and increased mobility, is becoming worse. The U.N. estimates that one million children are held in conditions of slavery in Asia alone. Yet it never gets much attention, because the victims tend to be the least powerful people in these societies: poor and uneducated rural girls.

Ms. Parveen was a 14-year-old Pashtun living in the northwest of Pakistan when she was hit on the head while walking to school. She says she awoke to find herself imprisoned in a brothel hundreds of miles away, in this remote southeastern Pakistani town of Khanpur.

A person of unbelievable strength, Ms. Parveen fought back and refused to sleep with customers. So, she says, the brothel

owner—Mian Sher, the violent sadist who had kidnapped her—beat and sexually tortured her, and regularly drugged her so that she would fall unconscious and customers could do with her as they liked.

This went on for six years, during which she says she was beaten every day. The girls in the brothel were forced to sleep naked at night, so that they would be too embarrassed to try to escape. Ms. Parveen says she believes that two of them, Malo Jan and Suwa Tai, were killed after they repeatedly refused to sleep with customers. In any case condoms were never available, so all the girls may eventually die of AIDS.

I wanted to look into the eyes of a man who could do these things. So I barged into Mian Sher's brothel, identified myself and interviewed him.

He warily offered me tea, pleasantries and flashes of violent temper. He denied kidnapping Ms. Parveen, saying that he had married her six years earlier. He also denied that he pimped the girls—a claim undermined by a customer who was walking out of his brothel as I arrived. Others working in the area said that Mian Sher unquestionably ran a brothel, and that Ms. Parveen had been imprisoned in it.

In January, Ms. Parveen got a break. A metalworker, Mohamed Akram, had been doing work in the brothel, and he pitied her. "She laid her scarf down on my feet and begged me, in the name of the Holy Koran, to rescue her," he remembers, and soon he felt not only pity but also love.

So on Jan. 5, Ms. Parveen stealthily arose in the middle of the night, crept past Mian Sher and padlocked the door with him inside. Then she ran to a car that Mr. Akram had sent. The next day, they were married.

Then the judicial nightmare began. Mian Sher brought charges against the couple, claiming that Ms. Parveen is his wife and must return to him.

"The police have taken money from him," Ms. Parveen said. "They say, 'You're married to him, so you should go back to him.' Well, I would rather die than go back to the brothel."

The police are now prosecuting Ms. Parveen for adultery. She is free on bail, but thugs have attacked her home and tried to kidnap her.

Mian Sher told me his plan: if Ms. Parveen is jailed for adultery, then as her supposed husband he will bail her out and take her away. Ms. Parveen says she believes he will then rape and torture her, and finally kill her.

So the judicial system, while ignoring the sex trafficking of children, may now, in the name of morality, hand a young woman over to a brothel owner to do with her as he wants.

The new abolitionism, against sex trafficking, is being pushed in America by an unlikely coalition of religious conservatives and liberal feminists; leaders include the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Ecpat, Equality Now and International Justice Mission. But progress is slow because the victims tend to be voiceless young people like Ms. Parveen.

Whether Ms. Parveen is returned to her brothel owner and killed may be, in terms of global issues, a small matter. But after spending a couple of days with this smart and lovely young woman, after seeing her in moments of giddy laughter and terrified weeping, I can't help thinking that slavery should be just as outrageous in the 21st century as it was in the 19th.

A court hearing to decide Ms. Parveen's fate is scheduled for tomorrow here in Khanpur. I'll let you know what happens.

REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS
SCHEDULE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNEAPOLIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act—H.R. 5254. This bill wrongly attempts to streamline environmental regulations in an effort to spur construction of new refining facilities, while doing nothing to move the country toward energy independence.

The Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act—H.R. 5254—mandates additional Federal oversight and requires State and local governments to comply with a new Federal schedule for approving permits to site, construct or expand a refinery. This bill fails to address legitimate concerns over the slow pace of expansion and increasing geographic concentration of America's oil refining facilities.

Supporters of H.R. 5254 blame state and local environmental regulations for obstructing the construction of new refining facilities. But private oil refining companies are choosing not to construct new facilities based on their own economic projections rather than local environmental hurdles. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Exxon is not building new refineries because it expects growth in U.S. demand for gasoline will be too insufficient to justify the capital investment. The chief executive officer for Shell Oil testified before Congress in 2005 that he knows of no environmental regulations that have prevented his company from expanding refinery capacity or siting a new refinery. Clearly, undermining State and local laws will do nothing to change the market-forces that are the true basis of companies' decisions regarding refinery construction.

In addition, H.R. 5254 does nothing to promote home-grown biofuels, a critical element of America's energy independence strategy. In the last 30 years, 97 new bio-refineries have been built in the U.S. and more are needed. But this bill will not expand America's biofuel industry for the same reason it fails to expand oil refining capacity—State and local regulations are not the barrier to growth. Biofuel industry experts have testified that State and local regulations have not prevented the siting or permitting of new bio-refineries.

It is time for leadership, vision and commitment from Washington to make the smart investments that will protect our Nation's economic security and our planet's future. In Congress, we should start by rescinding the billion of dollars in subsidies for oil and gas companies to expand drilling. We must invest in research and extend incentives for alternative energy sources such as wind, biomass and biofuels that keep energy costs down, create jobs and make us more competitive in the global economy. A clean energy future that addresses oil dependence and environmental concerns such as climate change is achievable.

But we should not expect our energy situation to change until the Bush administration and the Republican leaders in Congress get serious about tackling our oil dependence.

H.R. 5254 is a thinly veiled second attempt by the Republican majority to pass the con-

troversial Gasoline for America's Security Act—H.R. 3893—which the House narrowly passed in 2005 and the Senate ignored. As with that bill, H.R. 5254 has had no hearings, no markups, no opportunity for Congress to make necessary inquiries. Real solutions to America's energy challenges will result from a transparent legislative process, bipartisan cooperation and visionary ideas. The Republican majority has once again offered energy legislation that falls far short of a real solution.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOEL
M. CARP**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Joel M. Carp upon the occasion of his retirement after 28 years of service with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Carp has supported continued social work, social planning and advocacy in the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the country as a whole.

For over 30 years, Mr. Carp has dedicated his professional and personal life as an advocate for numerous social policy efforts serving on a number of government task forces and advisory boards, including the City of Chicago Mayor's Task Force on Hunger, the Cook County Task Force on Welfare Reform, and the Governor's Task Force on Services for the Homeless to name just a few. Additionally, Mr. Carp has served as a member of numerous local, state, and national professional and community service organizations as an advocate for the welfare of the Jewish community.

As an effective leader and tireless advocate, Mr. Carp has received several awards in recognition of his work, including the Melvin A. Block Award for Professional Distinction from the Associated YM-YWHAs of Greater New York, the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations Award, and a special award from the YMCA of the USA for helping to restore Agency for International Development funding for human services in Lebanon.

Upon his retirement as the Senior Vice President for Community Services and Government Relations of the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, Mr. Carp leaves behind a long legacy of social advocacy within the Jewish community. Mr. Carp is an inspiration to all for his dedication and leadership in shaping and improving social policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joel M. Carp in recognition of his distinguished and tireless work and service to his community.

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR MICHAEL
WALLACE FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor Michael Wallace, 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.

Taylor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taylor 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 Taylor Michael Wallace for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FORMER PENTAGON LAWYER
ALBERTO J. MORA: AN EXEMPLAR
OF AMERICAN VALUES
WITH A WARNING: DO NOT LET
FEAR OVERCOME THE DISCIPLINE
OF LAW AND AMERICAN
VALUES**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD an opinion piece by former Navy lawyer Alberto J. Mora entitled "An Affront to American Values" which appeared in the Washington Post on May 27, 2006, as well as an Op-Ed of February 20, 2006 in The New York Times entitled "Senior Lawyer at Pentagon Broke Ranks on Detainees."

The Times pointed out in its Op-Ed that Alberto Mora in his position as one of the Pentagon's top civilian lawyers "repeatedly challenged the Bush administration's policy on the coercive interrogation of terror suspects, arguing that such practices violated the law, verged on torture, and could ultimately expose senior officials to prosecution . . ." The information came from a then newly disclosed document, a memorandum Mr. Mora wrote in July 2004 and made public in an article in The New Yorker magazine on February 19, 2006.

I have repeatedly spoken out against the "torture policies" directly traced to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, Vice President CHENEY (who remains a champion of torture) and President Bush who two weeks after the Congress passed a law banning all torture of any person in the custody of the U.S. issued a signing letter stating he was not bound by that law when in his judgment he needs to use torture in his war on terror.

I am immensely gratified to know Mr. Mora challenged the opinions of Secretary Rumsfeld, who is not a lawyer and appears to have a low regard for the law, regarding the legal parameters of the treatment of detainees. But I am most proud and grateful for two excellent questions Mr. Mora asked his clients at the Pentagon which The Times reported: "Defense Department officials found striking and out of character for a loyal Republican, a supporter of President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and the fight against terrorism."

He asked the questions every one in the Pentagon and the Military of good character should have asked regardless of his or her

party affiliation or loyalty to the President. According to the memo printed in *The New Yorker* Mr. Mora asked the Pentagon's chief lawyer, William J. Haynes II:

"Even if one wanted to authorize the U.S. Military to conduct coercive interrogations, as was the case in Guantanamo, how could one do so without profoundly altering its core values and character?"

According to the *Times* article after trying to rally other senior officials to his position, Mr. Mora met again with Mr. Haynes on January 10, 2003. His question to Mr. Haynes that day is another every person of good moral character should be asking:

"Had we jettisoned our human rights policies?"

I will here answer both of Mr. Mora's questions: NO. The U.S. Military can not adopt coercive tactics as were used at Guantanamo without profoundly altering its core values and character. Look at what occurred at Haditha, Iraq.

YES. As to prisoners in our custody with President Bush, Vice President Cheney and Secretary Rumsfeld in full charge of the Iraq war, the Military has abandoned its 200 year history and jettisoned its human rights policies.

Mr. Mora retired on December 31, 2005. I am pleased he is still speaking out for American values and still asking very good questions. In his opinion piece in *The Washington Post* he asks the American people to consider some very good questions about the continued detention and treatment of "unlawful combatants" at Abu Ghraib and the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo.

In naming his piece "An Affront to American Values" I knew immediately Mr. Mora has not changed his mind about the way the President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld are directing the military to treat prisoners in military custody no matter how they are named; unlawful combatants, detainees or high-value targets. Perhaps he is now making his arguments to the American people because his opinions were heard but clearly disregarded by the Pentagon's Chief Lawyer. And Mr. Mora believes he was right. I believe he was right. I believe Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld, Attorneys (the President can do anything he wants) John Wu, David Addington Cheney's Attorney, and now Chief of Staff, and Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez were very wrong on the treatment and labeling of prisoners and remain wrong. I agree with Representative JOHN MURTHA; we lost the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people at Abu Ghraib.

We also lost American support of the war in part because of what Americans did at Abu Ghraib. We lost more Americans because of treatment of detainees at Guantanamo. We will lose still more with incidents like the massacre of innocent men, women. Have we had turned our marines into murderers who shot two-year old babies? They are in a war based on lies, run by a Secretary of Defense who has no idea of how to get them out, who doesn't give them what they need to protect themselves, enough help to hold territory they fight for and stays in the hanger where he plane lands when he visits the troops.

In the *Post* opinion piece Mr. Mora reminds us of how we treated Japanese Americans during World War II and just how we came to treat these innocent people as if they were criminals and spies because of their ancestry. He reminds us how we did this crime in viola-

tion of the United States Constitution and how the U.S. Supreme Court abdicated its judicial responsibility in the famous *Korematsu* decision, in which it endorsed the patently unconstitutional detention of American citizens.

Americans unconstitutionally detained Japanese Americans because Mr. Mora writes; "in our quest for security" when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, "in what will always be regarded as an act of national shame, military authorities rounded up 120,000 American citizens and incarcerated them on the presumption of disloyalty. . . ."

Korematsu reminds us that when threats and fear converge, our laws and principles can become fragile. They are fragile today.

Mr. Mora writes that in the summer of 2002, U.S. authorities held in detention at Guantanamo and elsewhere people President Bush, Vice President CHENEY Secretary Rumsfeld and perhaps others believed had information needed to prevent further terrorist attacks. These same people believed the detainees could be called "unlawful combatants" and "interrogation methods" constituting cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment could be applied at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and other locations. We know the treatment may have reached the level of torture in some instances.

The American public knows torture occurred as do the members of the Congress who supported JOHN MCCAIN's anti torture amendment which became law and is now the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005. The American people have read the testimony and perhaps heard the testimony of some of the innocent people who suffered U.S. "rendition" to another country like Syria and have returned after being tortured and attempted to sue the U.S. government for their treatment. There is not an iota of fact showing that torture yields good evidence. Senator JOHN MCCAIN who was tortured for more than five years testified to that. Experts in torture all agree people who are tortured will say anything to make the pain stop.

I am ashamed for my country because The Detainee Treatment Act had to be introduced and voted on because this proud country has always had a policy of acknowledging the basic human rights of prisoners of war. The United States does not execute prisoners of war and does not torture, humiliate, starve, degrade or otherwise treat prisoners of war in a way that is inhuman.

Our military has always been bound by the Uniform Military Code, the Geneva Conventions and the Laws of War. In addition, as Mr. Mora writes:

"It is astonishing to me, still, that I should be here today addressing the issue of American cruelty—or that anyone would ever have to. Our forefather, who permanently defined our civic values, drafted our Constitution inspired by the belief that law could not create but only recognize certain inalienable rights granted by God—to every person, not just citizens, not just here but everywhere. Those rights are a shield that protects core human dignity. Because this is so, the Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel punishment. The constitutional jurisprudence of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments outlaw cruel treatment that shocks the conscience. The Geneva Conventions forbid the application of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of all captives, as do all of the major or human rights treaties adopted and ratified by our country during the last century."

I find it shocking as well. What I also find shocking and disheartening is an answer Secretary Rumsfeld gave the other day when asked if the prohibition against torture had been put into the field manual and into practice; his answer was "not yet." The reason that it was not yet in the field manual for the military in Iraq and Afghanistan? The Pentagon was still arguing about certain terms like "unlawful combatant." The Secretary of Defense doesn't get it. The anti-torture law applies to any person in the custody of Americans wherever they are. The fact that Rumsfeld is holding up the implementation of the anti-torture act and the implementation of human rights military policy of the past 200 years, the conduct we agreed to when we signed treaties and the treatment of prisoners we agreed to when we signed and then ratified the Geneva Conventions, leaves our men and women fighting Mr. Bush's Iraq war in great danger of being charged with criminal offenses. In fact, it is happening now.

The American people must fight back. They must let this Administration know how much they object to what is happening to our proud military's moral character. American's must know this President relies on a Secretary of Defense that has no regard for Generals that have served in combat and understands the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the rules governing how our military treats prisoners of war. Our men and women in combat are at grave risk when such crucial decisions are made by men who have never served in the military and will not take the advice of those who have.

Mr. Mora asks: "In this war, we have come to a crossroads—much as we did in the events that led to *Korematsu*: Will we continue to regard the protection and promotion of human dignity as the essence of our national character and purpose or will we bargain away human and national dignity in return for an additional possible measure of physical security?"

Mr. Mora tells us as he attempted to tell his boss at the Pentagon why it matters for us to care about the human rights of prisoners and our national dignity. He writes:

"We should care because the issues raised by a policy of cruelty are too fundamental to be left unaddressed, unanswered or ambiguous. We should care because a tolerance of cruelty will corrode our values and our rights and degrade the world in which we live. It will corrupt our heritage, cheapen the valor of the soldiers upon whose past and present sacrifices our freedoms depend, and debase the legacy we will leave to our sons and daughters. We should care because it is intolerable to us that anyone should believe for a second that our nation is tolerant of cruelty. And we should care because each of us knows that this issue has not gone away."

AN AFFRONT TO AMERICAN VALUES

(By Alberto J. Mora)

In response to the 3,000 murders on Sept. 11, 2001, our nation went to war. In Afghanistan, our targets were the al-Qaeda perpetrators and the Taliban regime that aided and abetted them. In Iraq, the target was an unstable tyrant who had a history of using chemical weapons and who could be trusted to cheat on and retreat from his international commitments. I supported both engagements as Navy general counsel. I support them still as a private citizen. I regard each as a prudent and even necessary use of force. The terrorist threat, and the threat

posed by weapons of mass destruction in reckless hands, can never be underestimated.

And yet, there have been times in our nation's history when, in our quest for security, our fear momentarily overcomes our judgment and our power slips the discipline of the law and our national values.

One such moment occurred in 1942, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In what will always be regarded as an act of national shame, military authorities rounded up 120,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and incarcerated them on the presumption of disloyalty. These citizens were stripped of their rights and held in detention camps for the duration of the war. Many lost businesses and property. When we recall this event—and it is relevant to our current situation—we also recall with shame the Supreme Court's abdication of its judicial responsibilities in the notorious *Korematsu* decision, in which it endorsed the legality of the patently unconstitutional detention.

Korematsu reminds us that when threats and fear converge, our laws and principles can become fragile. They are fragile today. In the summer of 2002, at Guantánamo and elsewhere, U.S. authorities held in detention individuals thought to have information on other impending attacks against the United States. Unless this information was obtained, it was believed, more Americans—perhaps many more—would die. In this context, our government issued legal and policy documents providing, in effect, that for some detainees labeled as “unlawful combatants,” interrogation methods constituting cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment could be applied under the president's constitutional commander in chief authorities. Although there is debate as to the details of how, when and why, we know such cruel treatment was applied at Abu Ghraib, Guantánamo and other locations. We know the treatment may have reached the level of torture in some instances. And there are still questions as to whether these policies were related, if at all, to the deaths of several dozen detainees in custody.

It is astonishing to me, still, that I should be here today addressing the issue of American cruelty—or that anyone would ever have to. Our forefathers, who permanently defined our civic values, drafted our Constitution inspired by the belief that law could not create but only recognize certain inalienable rights granted by God—to every person, not just citizens, and not just here but everywhere. Those rights form a shield that protects core human dignity. Because this is so, the Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel punishment. The constitutional jurisprudence of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments outlaws cruel treatment that shocks the conscience. The Geneva Conventions forbid the application of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment to all captives, as do all of the major human rights treaties adopted and ratified by our country during the last century.

Despite this, there was abuse. Not all were mistreated, but some were. For those mistreated, history will ultimately judge what the precise quantum of abuse inflicted was—whether it was torture or some lesser cruelty—and whether it resulted from official commission or omission, or occurred despite every reasonable effort to prevent the abuse. Whatever the ultimate historical judgment, it is established fact that documents justifying and authorizing the abusive treatment of detainees during interrogation were approved and distributed. These authorizations rested on three beliefs: that no law prohibited the application of cruelty; that no law

should be adopted that would do so; and that our government could choose to apply the cruelty—or not—as a matter of policy depending on the dictates of perceived military necessity.

The fact that we adopted this policy demonstrates that this war has tested more than our nation's ability to defend itself. It has tested our response to our fears and the measure of our courage. It has tested our commitment to our most fundamental values and our constitutional principles.

In this war, we have come to a crossroads—much as we did in the events that led to *Korematsu*: Will we continue to regard the protection and promotion of human dignity as the essence of our national character and purpose, or will we bargain away human and national dignity in return for an additional possible measure of physical security?

Why should we still care about these issues? The Abu Ghraib abuses have been exposed; Justice Department memoranda justifying cruelty and even torture have been ridiculed and rescinded; the authorizations for the application of extreme interrogation techniques have been withdrawn; and, perhaps most critically, the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, which prohibits cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, has been enacted, thanks to the courage and leadership of Sen. John McCain.

We should care because the issues raised by a policy of cruelty are too fundamental to be left unaddressed, unanswered or ambiguous. We should care because a tolerance of cruelty will corrode our values and our rights and degrade the world in which we live. It will corrupt our heritage, cheapen the valor of the soldiers upon whose past and present sacrifices our freedoms depend, and debase the legacy we will leave to our sons and daughters. We should care because it is intolerable to us that anyone should believe for a second that our nation is tolerant of cruelty. And we should care because each of us knows that this issue has not gone away.

The writer, who retired as Navy general counsel last year, wrote a memo to Pentagon officials two years before the Abu Ghraib scandal that warned against circumventing international agreements on torture and detainee treatment. This article is excerpted from remarks he made upon receiving a 2006 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

SENIOR LAWYER AT PENTAGON BROKE RANKS
ON DETAINEES

(By Tim Golden)

One of the Pentagon's top civilian lawyers repeatedly challenged the Bush administration's policy on the coercive interrogation of terror suspects, arguing that such practices violated the law, verged on torture and could ultimately expose senior officials to prosecution, a newly disclosed document shows.

The lawyer, Alberto J. Mora, a political appointee who retired Dec. 31 after more than four years as general counsel of the Navy, was one of many dissenters inside the Pentagon. Senior uniformed lawyers in all the military services also objected sharply to the interrogation policy, according to internal documents declassified last year.

But Mr. Mora's campaign against what he viewed as an official policy of cruel treatment, detailed in a memorandum he wrote in July 2004 and recounted in an article in the Feb. 27 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine, made public yesterday, underscored again how contrary views were often brushed aside in administration debates on the subject.

“Even if one wanted to authorize the U.S. military to conduct coercive interrogations,

as was the case in Guantanamo, how could one do so without profoundly altering its core values and character?” Mr. Mora asked the Pentagon's chief lawyer, William J. Haynes II, according to the memorandum.

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Tracy O'Grady-Walsh, declined to comment late yesterday on specific assertions in Mr. Mora's memorandum. “Detainee operations and interrogation policies have been scrutinized under a microscope, from all different angles,” she said. “It was found that it was not a Department of Defense policy to encourage or condone torture.”

In interviews, current and former Defense Department officials said that part of what was striking about Mr. Mora's forceful role in the internal debates was how out of character it seemed: a loyal Republican, he was known as a supporter of President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the fight against terrorism.

“He's an extremely well-spoken, almost elegant guy,” the former director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, David L. Brandt, who first came to Mr. Mora with concerns about the interrogation methods, said in an interview last week. “He's not a door-kicker.”

Mr. Mora is also known for generally avoiding public attention. Reached by telephone yesterday, he declined to comment further on his memorandum.

Mr. Mora prepared the 22-page memorandum for a Defense Department review of interrogation operations that was conducted by Vice Adm. Albert T. Church III, after the scandal involving treatment of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The document focused on Mr. Mora's, successful opposition to the coercive techniques that Mr. Rumsfeld approved for interrogators at Guantánamo Bay on Dec. 2, 2002, and Mr. Mora's subsequent, failed effort to influence the legal discussions that led to new methods approved by Mr. Rumsfeld the following April.

Mr. Mora took up the issue after Mr. Brandt came to him on Dec. 17, 2002, to relay the concerns of Navy criminal agents at Guantánamo that some detainees there were being subjected to “physical abuse and degrading treatment” by interrogators.

Acting with the support of Gordon R. England, who was then secretary of the Navy and is now Mr. Rumsfeld's deputy, Mr. Mora took his concerns to Mr. Haynes, the Defense Department's general counsel.

“In my view, some of the authorized interrogation techniques could rise to the level of torture, although the intent surely had not been to do so,” Mr. Mora wrote.

After trying to rally other senior officials to his position, Mr. Mora met again with Mr. Haynes on Jan. 10, 2003. He argued his case even more forcefully, raising the possibility that senior officials could be prosecuted for authorizing abusive conduct, and asking: “Had we jettisoned our human rights policies?”

Still, Mr. Mora wrote, it was only when he warned Mr. Haynes on Jan. 15 that he was planning to issue a formal memorandum on his opposition to the methods—delivering a draft to Mr. Haynes's office—that Mr. Rumsfeld suddenly retracted the techniques.

In a break from standard practice, former Pentagon lawyers said, the final draft of the report on interrogation techniques was not circulated to most of the lawyers, including Mr. Mora, who had contributed to it. Several of them said they learned that a final version had been issued only after the Abu Ghraib scandal broke.

BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
GRANT PROGRAM

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program.

The White House again proposed eliminating this critical asset in the war on drugs. That would be a tremendous mistake. Congress must protect this funding to address the clear and present danger of meth in our communities.

In my home state of Nebraska, 60 percent of prison inmates are serving time for meth-related crimes. State social services programs are overwhelmed by the rising number of children coming from meth homes. The number of babies born addicted to meth is an unspeakable tragedy.

Each day, our dedicated law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to rescue families and communities from the scourge of meth. Anything less than full funding of Byrne-JAG would break faith with those who risk their lives to keep meth off our streets and away from our children.

In Nebraska, Byrne task forces were responsible for 5,500 drug arrests last year. Nationwide, Byrne task forces seized 5,600 meth labs, 55,000 weapons, and massive quantities of narcotics, including 2.7 million grams of meth.

The results of Byrne task forces are real, they are quantifiable, they are defensible, and they demonstrate the power of using federal dollars to leverage state and local investment in public safety.

RECOGNIZING KORY BENJAMIN
ROTH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kory Benjamin 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.

Kory has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kory 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 Kory Benjamin 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 THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE OLD
SAYBROOK REPUBLICAN WOM-
EN'S CLUB

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Old Saybrook, Connecticut Republican Women's Club in celebration of their 50th anniversary this month. The Old Saybrook Republican Women's Club's primary function has always been to support local and State Republican candidates and they have the distinction of being the oldest continuous Republican Women's Club in Connecticut.

But while their energy and enthusiasm for Republican candidates is as welcome as it has been effective, there is far more to the group than a political agenda.

For example, in conjunction with the Town Committee, the Club participates in the Washington Intern Program by sponsoring high school students and the group also gives awards to high school honor students. Clearly, the members of the organization are dedicated to helping engage young people intellectually and in matters of civic activism. Surely, part of our job as public servants should be to encourage young people to become involved in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, our communities do not operate by means of government alone. The Old Saybrook Republican Women's Club exemplifies a group of "citizens in action". Our quality of life is greatly influenced by individuals who join hands to set and accomplish goals that make our communities better places in which to live, work and raise a family. For half a century the members of the Old Saybrook Republican Women's Club have dedicated themselves to both party and public service.

I congratulate them on their dedication and commitment to the Grand Old Party and to their community.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING
EFFORTS ON MEDICARE PART D
AWARDED TO ONONDAGA COUN-
TY DEPARTMENT OF AGING &
YOUTH, NEW YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Syracuse partnership, headed by the Onondaga County Department of Aging, from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services in acknowledgment of the key role they played in establishing and maintaining this highly effective coalition.

The Onondaga County Office for the Aging is the federally designated Area Agency on Aging for Syracuse and Onondaga County. The agency plans, develops and coordinates programs and services for approximately 83,000 county residents age 60 and older.

The Onondaga County Office for the Aging was one of the most active and successful in the region. Their strong commitment to Part D

outreach and enrollment, their creativity, perseverance and hard work could serve as a model for the rest of the region. They emphasized targeted outreach and always stressed the positives of the Part D program. They recognized the importance of working with local, State and Federal agencies and elected officials and actively sought out those partnerships. The level of success that they achieved would not have been possible without their excellent planning and organization.

It is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Onondaga County Office of the Aging for their tireless work in assisting seniors through the Medicare Part D enrollment process. I wish them continued success on the care that they provide to seniors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE
CORPORAL ROBERT G. POSIVIO III

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of LCpl Robert G. Posivio III, who died a hero in a roadside bomb attack on May 23, 2006, while protecting his country and fighting for freedom in the al Anbar province of Iraq. As a devoted son, brother, and Marine, Lance Corporal Posivio will be missed by many.

Lance Corporal Posivio was born on October 4, 1983, in Mankato, MN, to Robert M. Posivio, Jr. and Patricia A. Posivio. He enlisted in the United States Marines while attending Martin County West Senior High School in Sherburn, MN, where he graduated in 2002.

Lance Corporal Posivio was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, based at Camp Pendleton, CA. He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Ardis Posivio; his uncle, Don Wood; his brother, Daniel L. Posivio; and other relatives.

Lance Corporal Posivio was on his third tour of duty in Iraq and was scheduled to be honorably discharged on July 28. He returned to combat on April 30 after suffering injuries in a mortar attack on April 13 in which two members of his unit were killed. Lance Corporal Posivio told his family that if he died, he wanted the following quote placed on his tombstone: "Freedom comes at a price that the free will never know." We owe Lance Corporal Posivio and all the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces a great debt of gratitude. We ask them to defend our Nation; we need to let them know they are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my condolences to Lance Corporal Posivio's parents, Robert, Jr. and Patti; his sister, Sarah Peltier, and her husband, Colin; his grandparents, Robert F. Posivio and Eugene and Evelyn McDonald; and the many other friends and family who loved him and miss him. In this time of sorrow, may our thoughts and prayers comfort them, and may his memory bring them peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was detained the evening of June 6, 2006 and wish to clarify any confusion as to how I intended to vote, most notably on rollcall 225, the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 223, King Amendment to H.R. 5441—"aye"; rollcall 224, Kingston Amendment to H.R. 5441—"aye"; rollcall 225, motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair—"aye"; rollcall 226, on passage of H.R. 5441—"aye."

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY,
PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the bill and I urge its approval by the House. In my view, it will bring urgently needed competition to cable television and benefit consumers nationwide with more varied program offerings and the better pricing that competition inevitably brings.

The bill also opens the door for local governments to offer commercial telecommunications services, filling the gap where broadband is either not available or is available but is priced beyond the reach of residential subscribers and the small business community. Section 401 of the measure prohibits states from barring local governments from providing telecommunications, information or cable services. This provision applies to all current and future state measures that may have this effect. Section 401 also prohibits local governments from discriminating in favor of municipal providers over commercial providers of such services. This prohibition does not apply to local governments to the extent that they are providing services to themselves or to other government entities. Finally, nothing in this section exempts a public provider from any law or regulation that applies to private sector providers of a telecommunications service, information service or cable service.

The manager's amendment contains provisions I recommended that will assure fair treatment for electric utilities and telephone companies in pole attachment pricing, and I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), who chairs the full committee, for his assistance with that provision. And the bill will assure that consumers who desire to purchase a freestanding broadband service can do so without having to buy telephone or cable service from the broadband provider. That provision was added in an amendment I offered during the markup of the bill in subcommittee.

I also urge support for the net neutrality amendment that the gentleman from Massachusetts Mr. MARKEY will be offering. I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of that amendment. It is essential to preserve the Internet as a platform for innovation. Broadband providers plan to create a two-lane Internet, a fast lane for their own content and for others who can pay for fast-lane access, and a slow lane for everyone else. That plan fundamentally changes the character of the Internet and would eliminate the openness and the accessibility that have enabled the Internet to be a platform for innovation unequaled in American history.

I will have more to say about that when the Markey amendment is offered, but I want to take the opportunity during these remarks to say that the net neutrality amendment is fundamental, and I strongly urge its adoption when it is offered.

INTRODUCTION OF "NO SPECIAL
TAX SUBSIDIES FOR GAS GUZZLERS ACT"**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by Reps. ANNA ESHOO, RAUL GRIJALVA, BARBARA LEE, PETE STARK, JIM OBERSTAR, BERNIE SANDERS, SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPS, JIM MCGOVERN, BETTY MCCOLLUM, BILL DELAHUNT, JAY INSLEE, JOHN OLVER and JIM MORAN in introducing a bill entitled, "No Special Tax Subsidies for Gas Guzzlers Act." With our budget deficit running at near record levels the federal tax incentives, it seems odd that we would find it fiscally responsible to provide incentives to purchase automobiles which are especially inefficient. In fact, this runs directly contrary to other public policy initiatives, such as the fuel economy standards and the gas guzzler tax, which were adopted to try to keep the fleet of cars on the road from using more gasoline than is necessary. Now that we have troops in the Middle East, these odd, counter-productive incentives can also be viewed as directly undermining our need to break the national addiction to imported oil.

This legislation corrects two incentives which are out-of-step with the times—the SUV Tax Loophole and the Gas Guzzler Tax loophole.

Some estimate suggest that if we reform either of these perverse incentives so that SUVs receive the same tax treatment as they would if they were classified as passenger vehicles, the savings would be at least \$1 billion over 10 years.

The federal tax code affects the purchase of heavy-duty SUVs through preferential tax treatment of depreciation for motor vehicles and passenger cars. Recently, the Congressional Research Service reviewed this situation and concluded that for a hypothetical purchase made in 2005, a businessman would realize a much higher after tax return on investment by purchasing an SUV instead of a similarly priced passenger car—\$3,000 higher in the example given. "In this treatment lies the most important tax subsidy for the purchase of these SUVs for business use." ("Tax Preferences for Sport Utility Vehicles," Guen-

ther, Gary, Congressional Research Service, (RL32173), April 4, 2006, p. 5.) The report notes that "there is no question that current depreciation rules favor the purchase of heavy-duty SUVs over lighter SUVs or passenger cars of comparable value. Supporting evidence can be found in the greater tax benefit to business taxpayers from buying an SUV exempt from the depreciation caps on luxury passenger cars than from buying a vehicle subject to those caps. This added benefit stems from the accelerated depreciation for heavy-duty SUVs available under IRC section 179." *Ibid*, p. 11.

The Report goes on to note that when Congress moved in 2004 to reduce the expensing allowance for SUVs from \$100,000 to \$25,000, it may have thought it was significantly reducing the tax tilt to SUVs, but in fact "it did little to curtail the tax preference for buying these vehicles under current depreciation rules." *Ibid*, p. 13.

The legislation we are introducing today will eliminate the tax tilt so that a businessman is not led to buy the heavier vehicle by virtue of a perverse tax incentive. There may be other reasons to buy the larger vehicle, but a tax preference should not be one of them.

Cars which consume excessive quantities of gas are subject to a 'gas guzzler' tax which is intended to encourage automakers to produce and develop more fuel efficient vehicles. This tax has been highly effective. During the model year (MY) 2003, fewer than 100,000 (or 1.3%) of cars purchased were gas guzzlers. However, the tax is only subject to passenger vehicles, which means that SUV's escape the gas guzzler tax entirely!

This bill would incorporate SUV's into the gas guzzler tax schedule that applies to other passenger vehicles.

The gas guzzler tax originated with the Energy Tax Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-618), and the IRS issued the first regulations to implement it in 1980. It applies to domestic sales of automobiles by manufacturers and importers, who are required to pay the tax. IRC section 4064(b) defines an automobile as any "four-wheeled vehicle propelled by fuel which is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways." Until the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU, P.L. 109-59) in August 2005, the definition of automobiles also stipulated that such vehicles have an unloaded gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or less; the act repealed this weight limitation, subjecting all vehicles meeting the remaining criteria for an automobile to the tax, irrespective of their weight. Certain vehicles are exempt from the tax: namely, emergency vehicles such as ambulances and police cars, cars with a gas mileage rating of 22.5 miles per gallon (mpg) and over, and all "light trucks" including SUVs of all weights. Whether a gas guzzler tax is owed—and if so, the amount of the tax—depends on an automobile's combined city and highway fuel economy rating, which is defined as the average number of miles traveled by an automobile per gallon of gasoline as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency. The current tax ranges from \$1,000 for cars with a fuel economy rating of at least 21.5 miles per gallon but less than 22.5 miles per gallon to \$7,700 for cars with a rating of less than 12.5 miles per gallon. These amounts have been in effect since the

enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-508). In FY2004, the tax raised \$141 million in revenue, up from \$71 million in FY2000.

Again, the Congressional Research Service analyzed the SUV exemption from the gas guzzler tax, noting that by exempting SUVs, demand for heavy-duty SUVs is likely to be greater than it would be if they were subject to the tax and buyers were forced to bear its burden. Since most heavy-duty SUVs get relatively low gas mileage, retail prices could be as much as \$4,500 to \$7,700 higher for many models if current law were changed to subject them to the tax and importers, manufacturers, and dealers were to pass the full amount of the tax on to buyers.

In applying the gas guzzler tax to SUVs, the legislation makes certain exceptions for vehicles clearly intended for carrying heavy loads, pick up trucks with open beds, and so forth.

For years we have stood idly by while watching our energy dependence soar as consumers responded to these perverse loopholes and upside-down tax incentives. The health of our environment and the safety of those purchasing small vehicles is affected adversely by giving preferences to inefficient SUVs. While we complain that China is now affecting demand for world oil, we continue to tolerate a tax code which artificially skews in favor of the purchase of the least efficient vehicles.

We no longer have the luxury of ignoring this ridiculous situation. Please join us in supporting efforts to reform this self-inflicted source of wasted gasoline and oil.

BYRNE-JAG FUNDING

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Byrne-JAG funding for state and local anti-drug task forces. This program is critical to supporting the dedicated police officers combating the meth epidemic sweeping our nation.

Methamphetamine is an extremely dangerous drug. In San Joaquin County, California, part of my congressional district, meth has been the most deadly drug for four years running. Even worse, the impact of meth spreads far beyond just the self-destructive behavior of the meth addict. In the Central Valley, meth has resulted in higher crime rates, child abuse and neglect, and toxic waste released into the environment.

The Byrne-JAG program should be an important part of any effective strategy to stop the devastating impact that methamphetamine use is having on our communities. Byrne funding supports anti-drug task forces that bring together federal, state, and local law enforcement and that have proven very effective in disrupting meth production and trafficking. In 2004 alone, Byrne-funded task forces seized 5,646 meth labs.

The Administration's meth strategy released last week sets a goal of reducing the number of domestic meth labs by 25% by 2008. Now is not the time to eliminate a program that provides our local and state law enforcement with the resources to achieve this goal.

I urge my colleagues in the Appropriations Committee to fully fund the Byrne-JAG program.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM E.
REICHMUTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant and transportation visionary. William E. Reichmuth is retiring from his three year tenure as the executive director of the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, known locally as TAMC. This position tops a thirty-eight year career of public service that began with the United States Navy's Civil Engineer Corps where he reached the rank of Captain and received the Navy Commendation Medal. Bill later held public works and engineering posts with both the U.S. Army and the City of Monterey. Throughout this career, Bill has been both a model to his profession and a leader in his community.

Bill has overseen numerous key public works projects and innovations. As the City of Monterey's public works director, Bill oversaw the redevelopment of the City's two commercial wharfs that are at the heart of its fishing and tourism industries. He also helped craft Monterey's contract to manage the Defense Language Institute's base operations, saving the Army millions of dollars and thereby helping to ward off efforts to close or relocate the Institute in the latest base closure round.

On the transportation front, Bill has been on innovation's cutting edge. He has shepherded the design of the Monterey County portions of a coastal trail project that will one day link Monterey and Santa Cruz in a continuous bike and pedestrian path. Though neither of us could be mistaken for Lance Armstrong, I share every bit of Bill's contagious enthusiasm for the bike trail's recreational and economic development potential. Bill also played a key role in facilitating TAMC's purchase of the Monterey Branch Line from Southern Pacific Railroad. This will give our region new transportation options. And while Bill has set the pace on alternative transportation, he has paid great attention to road and highway needs that are crucial to a rural community such as Monterey County. Under his leadership, TAMC has advanced projects to ease the highway congestion that affects the region's agricultural produce, many visitors, and residents alike. He has made a special focus of safety; for example, improving the entrance into Monterey's Ryan Ranch office park.

Bill has been an active member of his professional community, serving in a variety of leadership posts with the American Public Works Association and the California Society of Professional Engineers. He also serves as a lector at the Carmel Mission Basilica. Finally, no description of Bill's life and work is complete without reference to his other transportation passions, namely an addiction to cars. Bill loves sports cars; especially new sports cars. I am told that something as little as a needed oil change is enough to prompt Bill to trade up to the latest model of Porsche. Bill is an amateur racer and has served as the president of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for my colleagues when I applaud Bill Reichmuth's career of public service and wish him a happy and speedy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI BRAD
BLOOM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Rabbi Brad Bloom, the Senior Rabbi at B'nai Israel since 1995, who is leaving this week for a new pulpit after a distinguished professional career here in Sacramento. As his friends, family and coworkers all gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join in honoring his community leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

After Rabbi Bloom completed his BA in History from the University of Wisconsin and his Master's in Social Work from the University of Maryland, he realized his calling in life: the rabbinate. He began his career by serving as the Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

Following his service with the Congregation, Rabbi Bloom was Associate Rabbi at the Sinai Temple of Champaign-Urbana in Illinois. In 1995 he became the Senior Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel, where he has served with distinction for the past 11 years.

Rabbi Bloom has been a strong leader for B'nai Israel. He guided a devastated congregation and the greater Sacramento community through one of its darkest hours in June of 1999, when arsonists attacked three of Sacramento's synagogues, including his own.

Rabbi Bloom's calm, unifying voice emerged from the dense fog of hate and fear in the weeks and months following the attacks. He revived the community's spirits and helped bring forward a united front against hate. In order to build a dialogue, he helped create the Children of Abraham group, which brings together clergy and congregants of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. And under his leadership, the synagogue opened its door to gay and lesbian Jews to perform commitment ceremonies inside the sanctuary.

Through it all Rabbi Bloom has been dedicated to cultivating a strong and thriving Jewish community. With his gifts as a teacher, he has shown a commitment to life-long learning and instilling that value in others. He has led adult education groups, including Talmud classes, Kabbalah courses and a women's book group. These unique programs have helped educate and unite the Jewish community.

Since 1995, Rabbi Bloom has been a strong voice for B'nai Israel, and helped foster compassion and understanding throughout our community. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Rabbi Brad Bloom for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.

REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS
SCHEDULE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act. This bill would endanger the environment and the health of communities across America in order to provide another giveaway to the oil and gas industry which is reaping record profits.

The oil industry is responsible for limiting refinery capacity. During the 1990s, the American Petroleum Institute encouraged the oil industry to limit refining capacity in order to boost profits. The industry followed instructions, closing 176 refineries since 1980 and failing to fully utilize available capacity. According to the Washington Post, between September 2004 and 2005, refineries marked up their prices 255 percent while gasoline retailers only marked up their prices by 5 percent. The five largest oil companies, many of which own refineries, reported record profits of \$110 billion in 2005. ExxonMobil reported the largest annual profit of an American company in history.

Environmental regulations are not standing in the way of new refineries being opened. The CEOs of Shell and ConocoPhillips have testified that no Federal or State regulations had prevented them from siting new refineries. Only one energy company, Arizona Clean Fuels, has filed a permit to open a new refinery in over 20 years. When Arizona Clear Fuels was granted that permit, the company never actually opened the refinery. Its inability to find investors, not environmental regulations, prevented the company from opening a refinery.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, refinery outages caused a supply shock that was in part responsible for a rise in gasoline prices. The Democrats, under the leadership of Representatives DINGELL, STUPAK and BOUCHER, proposed the creation of a strategic refinery reserve which would ensure that the U.S. had an adequate supply of refined product in case of national emergency. Republicans have repeatedly rejected Democrats' efforts to create that reserve, which would put the interests of consumers before the profits of the oil industry. Republicans have also rejected an attempt by Ranking Member DINGELL and Energy and Commerce Democrats to make this legislation bipartisan.

This bill is another giveaway to the oil and gas industry that could impose refineries on communities throughout the country. It requires President Bush to designate three closed military bases as sites for new refineries, waiving local and State regulations and giving communities little input in the process. It allows Secretary Rumsfeld to sell or transfer the land to an oil company at no cost. Congress should know by now that billions of dollars in giveaway to the oil and gas industry has only led to record profits and record energy prices.

This bill again demonstrates the misplaced priorities of this Republican Congress. While my constituents are paying \$2.96 for a gallon of regular gas in Chicago, we are considering

legislation that would do nothing to bring down gasoline prices. Nothing in this legislation forces oil companies to utilize all of their available refining capacity, nor does it protect our supply in the case of a national emergency. This bill will lead to higher profits in the boardroom and more pain at the pump.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS.
BEVERLY GARRETT**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Beverly Garrett, a remarkable and compassionate woman whose life has touched so many Kansas Citizens. Mrs. Garrett passed away on June 1, 2006. Her passing is a deep loss felt by her family, her community, and all who have been touched by her tireless dedication and service to helping others.

Beverly was employed by the federal government in the Social Security Administration for more than thirty years. Motivated by her dedication to her work environment and fellow employees, she became active in the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1336, in the 1980s. Her leadership, character, and determination grew with each year, eventually garnering the position of president. In addition Beverly was a member of the local AFL-CIO's Labor Council, where she proved to be a mentor and trusted friend. Beverly's commitment went beyond the work place as she found great satisfaction serving on the board of the Heart of America United Way Campaign. For two years she provided leadership and direction as Co-chair and most recently as Board Secretary.

Though she achieved positions of great trust and honor, she maintained an admirable and inspiring humility. With a touch of kindness and a touch of toughness she always found a way to create a positive impact.

Beverly's trademark was her optimistic, jovial spirit that uplifted everyone she met. Her sense of humor and quiet grace brought people together even when they were in conflict. Beverly's attitude toward life was inspiring. Always smiling, she never hesitated to go out of her way to help someone in need. Because she was devoutly religious, she always found meaning and an opportunity to learn through each experience.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to her sons, James and Jason, and her daughter, Kim; and all of her other relatives, loved ones, and friends. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to her family for sharing this great woman with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. She was an inspiration to so many, and she will be missed.

STATEMENT HONORING LINWOOD
FIELDS AND THE PAGE CLASS
OF 2006**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Page Class of 2006 and in particular the page from the 30th District of Texas, Linwood Fields. You have served the United States House of Representatives with honor and dignity, and should be proud of your accomplishments.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." It is my hope that during your time here you were able to expand your perspectives on the world, and will continue to utilize this knowledge in the years ahead.

I am particularly proud of Linwood Fields. He has honorably represented his family, my office, and the Dallas community. He successfully served this House through his outstanding work and extraordinary spirit. I know that this is merely the first step of a very bright future. I am confident that Linwood will go on to become a fine and successful man, and I look forward to seeing his accomplishments in the years to come.

I commend Linwood and the Page Class of 2006 for their outstanding service. Myself and my colleagues are grateful for all you have done.

MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW
EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not in opposition to the content of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, but to the process by which it is brought to the floor. By bringing this important legislation to the floor as a suspension bill, members of this body are denied the opportunity to offer necessary amendments to improve the safety of miners.

A clear message was apparent when the most recent edition of the comprehensive report on workplace safety, "Death on the Job," was released in April: American workers and their families need stronger enforcement of OSHA and MSHA for their health and safety. In the first increase in the number of workplace deaths since 1994, 5,703 U.S. workers were killed on the job in 2004. The vast majority of workplace deaths occur with little national recognition or public outcry. But early this year an explosion at the Sago mine in West Virginia focused the attention of the entire Nation on 13 families waiting to hear the fate of their loved ones. Our failure to protect miners from preventable tragedies was made evident 40 hours after the explosion, when the trapped miners were reached and only one survivor was found.

Despite numerous calls for action on mine safety legislation in the Committee on Education and the Workforce, this Congress chose to do nothing to improve the safety of miners until a second tragedy—this time at a mine in Kentucky—forced action in the Senate. Now this bill is brought to the floor of the House for a vote, without any chance for members to offer amendments and improve upon the Senate's initial step. The reason offered for this rush to passage is that action is needed immediately to ensure the safety of miners. Immediate action is needed. Immediate action was needed in January, following the tragedy at Sago. Action was needed over the past 5 years as the administration withdrew or delayed action on 18 different mine safety rules. We do need to act now. But in our haste to improve safety we should take the time to ensure we do things right.

It is clear this bill will in fact improve mine safety. The Senate bill will improve the tracking and communications devices used in mines, increase penalties for noncompliance and improve mine rescue team operations. It is a good step, but we can and should do more. We should use the lessons learned from Sago and take the steps to ensure other miners do not suffer the same fate.

My colleague, Congressman MILLER, has proposed three simple and necessary amendments to this bill that would do just that. These amendments would require random testing of self-rescue devices by MSHA to ensure these vital devices are functional when needed. They would require a minimum of 2 days worth of air for trapped miners. And they would shorten to 15 months the time period for mines to install technology to track and communicate with miners underground. These are simple changes, which miners and the mine industry in West Virginia have already agreed are necessary as a part of the West Virginia Mine Safety Technology Task Force. Miners at the Sago mine and other West Virginia mines will now be protected from the problems that led to the death of those 12 miners earlier this year, not because of the bill we are debating today, but by State law. Miners across the Nation deserve and require those same protections. Passage of this bill, without such amendments, gives false hope to the families of miners in other States that a Sago-like disaster will not befall their loved ones in the future.

The core mission of MSHA is to protect workers by enforcing safety standards. These workers are not the bosses who decide if and how a business will obey the law. Instead they face the consequences of those decisions. They need strong workplace safety laws and vigorous enforcement, and that is what this Congress should be focused on providing. We do a great disservice to workers by ignoring the resources that would offer them greater protections. I urge my colleagues to consider the additional improvements we can and should make for the safety of miners across the Nation. We must refocus our time and efforts toward protecting workers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 223, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 224, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 225, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 226, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATIONS TROY
MCCURRY**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Troy McCurry, a native of Augusta, GA, and a graduate of the University of Georgia. Throughout the past 3 years, Troy has helped me serve the Second Congressional District. From working with legislative aides on special projects to helping communicate with citizens throughout South Carolina, he has been an important part of our team. I have truly appreciated his service and his commitment.

A graduate of Catholic University Law School, Troy recently accepted a position with the Republican Governors Association. I am confident that he will bring the same level of professionalism and commitment to his new job. As Troy begins the next stage of his career, I would like to sincerely thank him for his efforts.

RETIREMENT OF TOM DELAY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, today marks the final day in Congress for one of the greatest leaders the House of Representatives has ever seen. In his 22 years of public service to the residents of the 22nd District of Texas, TOM DELAY has always been a tireless and indispensable warrior for the Republican party and the causes of individual freedom, family values, and limited government.

Tom's years of service have been marked by devoted adherence to core conservative principles. His effectiveness can be measured in the countless advances made under his leadership strengthening our national security, restoring individual freedoms, and reigning in a runaway federal government. Tom never backed down from his beliefs and principles, and ultimately his tremendous success made him a target. There is no doubt that the Republican Party, the conservative movement, the state of Texas, and especially the Houston area have lost the services of a great friend and leader.

I will miss having TOM DELAY serving with me in the House, but I am grateful that he has

chosen to remain active in the fight to restore the American Republic. I look forward to continuing to benefit from his invaluable counsel and wisdom.

On behalf of the Houston area and on behalf of my fellow Republican House members, congratulations to a fine leader, a great friend, and a devoted husband and father on a job well done.

FREEDOM FOR ARMANDO
BETANCOURT REINA**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Armando Betancourt Reina, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Betancourt Reina is an independent journalist and has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of Castro's villainous regime. Mr. Betancourt Reina works and writes to inform the world about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, writing and reporting the truth is not allowed under Castro's tyrannical dictatorship. All attempts to portray the absolute lack of freedom in totalitarian Cuba are viciously attacked and their authors are imprisoned and harassed.

According to Directorio and the Committee to Protect Journalists, Mr. Betancourt Reina was detained on May 23, 2006, in the city of Camagüey where the police were carrying out violent evictions. He was covering yet another atrocity committed by the regime against the Cuban people. In an attempt to suppress the truth about these violent evictions from the world, Castro's thugs arrested and imprisoned Mr. Betancourt Reina. Mr. Betancourt is locked in the totalitarian gulag, but he has not yet been charged with a "crime."

I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Betancourt Reina is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Betancourt Reina is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and democracy are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. Let us never forget and always support those who are struggling to liberate people from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and

unconditional release of Armando Betancourt Reina and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES
"JIMMY" AYCOCK

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James "Jimmy" Aycock, a native of Fremont, North Carolina, for his dedicated service to his community.

A man of strong faith, Jimmy has been blessed by God with outstanding musical talent. For years, he has shared his talent with others in his community and helped young people develop their own musical talents.

Jimmy began his expansive musical career at the age of 14 and has been a presence on the Carolina scene for more than 50 years as an accomplished pianist, composer, and musical arranger.

In May of this year, the town board of Fremont, North Carolina honored Jimmy with a resolution of appreciation for his 40 years of dedicated service to the community. The resolution expressed gratitude for Jimmy's unselfish contributions of his time and energy.

As a teacher in the North Carolina public school system for more than three decades, Jimmy has made tireless contributions to the musical education of the state's young people. Appointed by Governors Jim Martin and Jim Hunt to serve on the North Carolina Arts Council, he has also volunteered his time and talent by playing at cancer benefits and performing for the Governor of North Carolina.

In an upcoming documentary intended for national broadcast, Jimmy will be the first artist honored in a program by November Entertainment entitled "Carolina Icons." The program aims to exemplify the best of North Carolina's artistic culture. The documentary will feature interviews with Jimmy and those who know him, as well as video of his work in the classroom and in concert.

For Jimmy's long-time service to his community and generous contributions of his time and musical talent, recognition and praise are long overdue.

Jimmy Aycock is a man who has given so much of himself to God and to his fellow man, and I consider it an honor and a privilege to call him a friend.

HONORING THE SILVER CRESCENT
FOUNDATION AND WINNERS OF
THE 2006 SILVER CRESCENT
AWARD

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Silver Crescent Foundation and the winners of the 2006 Silver Crescent Award.

The prestigious Silver Crescent Award for Manufacturing Excellence is a salute to manufacturers in the State of South Carolina. This

award is intended to promote wealth, innovation, and job creation in the State, and to recognize companies in South Carolina who excel in manufacturing.

I am pleased to announce the winners of this year's Silver Crescent Award for Manufacturing Excellence. The three award winners are Jarden Plastic Solutions, Westminster's U.S. Engine Valve, and Bridgestone Firestone's Graniteville plant. Jarden Plastic Solutions is located in my district in Greer, and they are an industry innovator specializing in high-volume precision injection molding. The company designs, engineers, and manufactures everything from recreational equipment to advanced healthcare tools. Bridgestone Firestone is one of the world's top tire producing plants. They are no strangers to success. In 2003, Bridgestone Firestone's Graniteville plant was also named one of the top 10 plants in North America by Industry Week. Finally, Westminster's U.S. Engine Valve is a first class provider of automotive engine components. This is the second time they have received the Silver Crescent Award. These three manufacturers know the keys to success, and I am proud that they call South Carolina home.

To build the next generation of manufacturers and engineers, the Silver Crescent Foundation organizes Camp Success. The goal of Camp Success is to get middle school and high school kids excited about engineering, math, and science. The camp uses state of the art technology to give kids the firm foundation they will need to become highly skilled professionals. By investing time, effort, and money in our kids, Camp Success ensures that South Carolina and our Nation will have the tools necessary to compete in tomorrow's global economy.

I am extremely proud of the Silver Crescent Foundation's efforts in the State of South Carolina. Under the leadership of President Tony Smith along with excellent award sponsors like the South Carolina Research Authority and the Advanced Technology Institute, the Silver Crescent Foundation is leading the way toward a bright future for South Carolina's manufacturers and a new generation of engineers and manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I commend this year's winners, the Silver Crescent Foundation, and everyone involved in the success of South Carolina manufacturing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and missed the rollcall vote No. 237. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE OFFICIAL NAMING OF THE JOHN H. BRADLEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to submit this statement in commemoration of the official renaming of the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Appleton after an extraordinary man, John H. Bradley.

For many years, the Appleton Veterans Clinic has helped administer life-saving medical services to Wisconsin's retired servicemen and women. Now it will bear the name of a man who administered life-saving medical care to his comrades on the battlefield—Pharmacist Mate Second Class John "Jack" Bradley. Not only was Jack one of the six men who participated in raising the American flag at Iwo Jima, he also received our country's second highest award for heroism during combat, the Navy Cross, for his extraordinary efforts in aiding a wounded Marine under intense enemy fire. Jack suffered severe shrapnel wounds a few days after his heroic act, and returned home to Antigo, Wisconsin with his wife Betty after his recovery. He avoided any recognition of his participation in the flag raising, and never told his family he had been awarded the Navy Cross.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Betty Bradley and the entire Bradley family for their support throughout the naming process. It is an honor to take part in the dedication of the John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic; a fitting tribute to such an extraordinary man. On behalf of Wisconsin's 8th district and the United States Congress, we thank Jack Bradley, and hope the veteran's clinic in his name stands as a lasting tribute to his dedicated service and cherished memory.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY,
PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Chairman, the House passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement (COPE) Act. I voted with 105 of my Democratic colleagues in favor of the COPE Act, which will spur much-needed competition in the market for pay-television and high-speed internet services. While communities have expressed concern about the local impact of this bill—and I pledge to work with cities in my district to address those concerns—I believe the act is a crucial step toward providing more affordable broadband services to more consumers.

The COPE Act not only encourages innovation and the wider deployment of broadband networks, it will help drive down the price that consumers pay for broadband services. It requires that service providers pay 5 percent of local revenues to local governments—more than many cities currently receive—and that providers pay an additional 1 percent to support public, governmental, and educational programming. It also contains provisions to ensure that service providers do not discriminate against low-income consumers. These are important improvements over existing law.

The COPE Act is far from perfect. It inappropriately allows the Federal Communications Commission to resolve local “rights-of-way” disputes. These are concerns best handled by local governments. When a broken water main interrupts local TV service, it doesn’t make much sense for customers to call an 800 number at the FCC. Still, two amendments added to the bill go a long way toward restoring local control. The first institutes a 90-day period during which local authorities and service providers must meet to resolve right-of-way and fee disputes. Only after the 90-day period can either party bring the dispute to the FCC. This amendment empowers local authorities by forcing providers to work with local officials to resolve most right-of-way and fee disputes. The second gives cities the authority to resolve consumer complaints about cable service, including complaints that a cable provider has failed to provide consumers with fair and open access to the Internet. This amendment would give local officials the legal authority to protect consumers and prevent unfair and discriminatory business practices, which could lead to fines for providers up to \$750,000 a day.

Equally troubling is the lack of strong “net neutrality” language, which would ensure that everyday web surfers have access to the same Internet used by big media companies. Both sides of this dispute want a vibrant Internet that allows fast and fair access to all users. The question is how to get there. Opponents of “net neutrality” believe that market forces alone will do the job. I am not so sanguine. I voted for an amendment that would have prohibited service providers from selectively blocking or slowing access to certain Internet content, or from charging certain users extra to send information over the Internet. Though it is not absolutely clear this language is needed now, my vote sends the message that the Internet must remain fair and open to all. I believe we will have more opportunities to address this issue during the conference on the COPE Act.

I will work to ensure that the telecommunications legislation Congress sends to the President strikes the right balance and is reflective of the needs of consumers and our communities. This bill makes important progress, but we can make it even better.

HONORING COLONEL RUSSELL D.
GOLD

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Colonel Russell

D. Gold, an exemplary soldier and citizen from my congressional district. Colonel Gold recently announced his retirement as Chief of Staff at the U.S. Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

A native of West Palm Beach, Florida, Colonel Gold was first commissioned through ROTC as a Distinguished Military Student from The Citadel, beginning his military career as a Tank Platoon Leader, then Executive Officer with the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After completion of the Armor Officer Advance Course, he commanded Company B, 2d Battalion, 72d Armor, 2d Infantry Division, at Camp Casey, Korea. Upon completion of command, he served as a Small Group Instructor in the Armor Officer Advance Course, then, Executive Officer of the U.S. Army Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

From 1993 through 1995, Colonel Gold was assigned to the First Armored Division in Germany, where he served as the Battalion S-3 and Battalion Executive Officer with the 2d Battalion, 67th Armor, then as the Brigade S-3 for the First Brigade, 1st Armor Division. From 1995–1997, Colonel Gold was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, DC, where he served in the J-8 as Chief, War-Game Exercise Branch. Colonel Gold then commanded the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. Following battalion command, Colonel Gold served as the III Corps Secretary of the General Staff, then after graduating from the Army War College, became the Director of Combat Developments at Fort Knox.

Colonel Gold commanded the 3d Brigade Combat Team (Iraq), 1st Armored Division, of Fort Riley, Kansas, from June 2002 to June 2004 before being assigned as Chief of Staff of the Armor Center on July 30, 2004.

Colonel Gold’s awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit award, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. Colonel Gold will also be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal during his retirement ceremony.

It is my great privilege to recognize Colonel Gold today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the men and women of the U.S. Army make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

TRIBUTE TO WANDA GARNER
CASH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great friend and a great journalist. After more than thirty years working

in journalism, Wanda Garner Cash, will be leaving her post as Publisher and Editor of the Baytown Sun this June as she becomes a senior lecturer and fellow at the University of Texas School of Journalism. She will be serving as the first fellow to the S. Griffin Singer Professorship, a fellowship created to honor a former University of Texas professor.

Since receiving her bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1971 from the University of Texas, she has served in a variety of capacities for a variety of organizations. Mrs. Cash worked as the assistant managing editor of The Galveston County Daily News, editor of the Kerrville Daily News, executive editor of the Brazosport Facts, and most recently as publisher and editor of the Baytown Sun.

Her success in the realm of journalism spans further than prestigious job titles. In addition to being an accomplished print journalist, Mrs. Cash has served as a member of the Legislative Advisory Committee where she has been a staunch advocate of open government and has testified before the Texas Legislature on numerous occasions. She has also been a mentor for young journalists and is recognized for always taking time to help young journalists develop their own talents. This quality will serve her students well as she enters the college arena this June.

The city of Baytown will miss Mrs. Cash and her dedication to the Baytown community. She has served as the vice-chair and chair of the Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation, chaired a variety of fundraising events such as the annual Baytown Area United Way fund-raising campaign.

Her dedication to the community and her commitment to journalistic integrity will be missed in the city of Baytown, but I wish her well as she begins her tenure at the University of Texas. A loss for the City of Baytown is a gain for the students, the University of Texas and the journalism profession.

IN SUPPORT OF A CONFLICT RESPONSE FUND AND A COMPREHENSIVE USG APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF FAILED STATES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the most significant threat to our national security in the 21st Century is from failed countries. Nearly 2 billion people live in countries that are in danger of collapse. According to the 2002 U.S. National Security Strategy, the United States is now threatened less by conquering states than we are by failing ones.

Stop and think about our recent defense and foreign policy obligations—Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo—and our current engagement in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan. These are all failed states and their instability imperils U.S. national security.

The U.S. defense and foreign policy apparatus formally acknowledged the threat of failed states when the National Security Council directed the State Department to establish a Coordinator for Stabilization and Reconstruction to incorporate “lessons learned” from previous stabilization operations so that future

U.S. engagements will save lives—both U.S. and indigenous and use U.S. resources judiciously so that failed states don't deteriorate.

In December 2005, the Defense Department issued a directive, 3000.05, that places Stability Operations on par with Combat Operations. These are significant first steps and I commend the Administration, however, much more needs to be done. The first improvement I would recommend is that the State Department not Defense Department be the lead agency for planning and implementing the overall strategy for rebuilding a failed state.

I commend my colleagues on the Subcommittee who have done the best they can with an allocation this year that is \$2.4 billion lower than the President's request. Those budget constraints prohibited them from funding the Conflict Response Fund, which would allow State Department reconstruction officials to immediately draw down such resources as necessary to rapidly initiate programs like democratic and electoral reform economic and infrastructure development so that the indigenous population sees tangible improvements.

The second improvement I would recommend is stronger support from the State and Defense Departments for the Master's degree in Stabilization and Reconstruction, being offered by the Naval Postgraduate School in my district. This is the only school in the country where U.S. military and foreign officers are being educated with U.S. civilian agency personnel and the NGO community so they can better understand their respective roles in the classroom rather than the battlefield.

I am glad we are gaining a better understanding of the threat of failed states, so that we can confront the challenges of these threats to U.S. national security.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Ms. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Markey amendment which would ensure that this bill contain the necessary provisions to ensure the neutrality of the Internet.

The Internet has revolutionized so many facets of our daily lives. Using the Internet, we can send and receive e-mail messages instantly, purchase merchandise, check our banking records, look at photos posted on a website created by a friend or family member, legally download a song or a movie, or check the latest headlines from a news source.

I agree with my colleagues that the underlying legislation does not provide sufficient safeguards to consumers to ensure that their access to websites and services on the Internet are not restricted. We must ensure that the Internet remain equally accessible to everyone. Net neutrality is supported by the Consumers Union, Amazon.com, Google,

Yahoo, and the Service Employees International Union to name just a few.

There should not be a fast lane and a slow lane for using the Internet. I urge a yes vote on the Markey amendment.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, & Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006.

The technology in wireless and traditional wire-line capabilities has far outpaced our current telecommunications laws, and the COPE Act serves to update these regulations. This bill provides for the streamlining of video franchising at the federal level, to speed up the process of granting new franchises into these markets, providing badly needed competition in the marketplace, and lowering prices for telecommunications in America.

This legislation updates the rules ensuring that satellite providers are treated equally to local cable franchises; and addresses new technologies that did not exist when the last telecommunications laws were written, such as ensuring that voice-over internet providers provide 911 emergency services to their customers. The COPE Act also contains build-out requirements for these new franchises, as well as protecting our rural infrastructure by ensuring that these providers contribute fairly to the Universal Service Fund.

In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission released four network neutrality principles: (1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; (2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice; (3) consumers are entitled to connect their choices of safe legal devices; and (4) consumers are entitled to competition among networks, applications, services, and content providers. H.R. 5252 enacts these neutrality principles into law, sending a strong non-discrimination message to Internet providers. North Carolina's economy has prospered from open Internet access, and H.R. 5252 ensures that we continue to enjoy that opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, no legislation is perfect. I would like to have seen stronger language regarding build-out requirements than was included in the bill, and I supported amendments that gave local authorities even greater oversight than the original language provided.

However, this legislation represents a significant step forward in the information age. I urge support of H.R. 5252.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rolled votes that included rollcall No. 233, for passage of a bill introduced by my colleague Representative LATOURETTE. The bill, I believe reasonably addressed the impasse in labor contract negotiations between our Nation's air traffic controllers and the Federal Aviation Administration by creating procedural fairness and encouraging good faith bargaining for both parties. While I attempted to vote "yea" on the bill, the electronic voting system did not record the vote I intended to cast. I ask that the record reflect that had my vote been recorded, it would have been "yea" on rollcall No. 233.

RECOGNIZING QUAKERTOWN HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, STA- TION 17 IN CELEBRATING THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of Quakertown Fire Company No. 1 which celebrates its one hundred and thirtieth anniversary this year.

Since its humble beginnings in 1876 as the Quakertown Hook and Ladder Company, station 17 has protected the residents of the Quakertown area with distinction and pride.

One hundred and thirty years ago, Quakertown Pennsylvania, which is located in the northern portion of my district, was a small and quiet farming community. And in its early years, I doubt the fire company needed to answer many calls. However, the Quakertown of today is a vibrant suburban area and station 17 has seen an increase of nearly 400 calls a year in the past 40 years. The need to expand and recruit on such a large scale would likely hinder the performance of the department, but the fire company has continued to grow and enlist generation after generation of fire fighters.

Firefighters have always been an integral part of American history. The safety of the citizens of Bucks County has been the top priority of the Quakertown Fire Company, and they have at all times served selflessly to that end.

Mr. Speaker, volunteerism is an American institution. Station 17 has always operated with volunteer firefighters, and I wish to congratulate and thank the current 50 volunteer members, who do an exceptional job. It is a special group of people that would voluntarily dedicate so much of their own time and effort towards the common good, and Quakertown is fortunate to have such a large and committed team of volunteers working for them.

How many people, Mr. Speaker, would jump out of bed in the middle of night at the sound of their alarm with no questions asked and go to a complete stranger's house only to battle a blazing inferno for hours upon hours, and

still go to work the next morning? Well I am proud to say that Quakertown has at least 50 of these extraordinary men and women, and we thank them all.

To these heroic men and women of station 17; thank you for your work, your time, your dedication, and your sacrifice.

S. 193, THE BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT: CONGRESSIONAL MALFUNCTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the passage of S. 193, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. I object to the passage of this bill because of my strong belief that in any legislative attempt to express disapproval of what some consider to be objectionable speech or acts, we must be careful not to infringe upon the Constitutionally-protected right to free speech. This legislation is an overreaction to the 2004 Janet Jackson "wardrobe malfunction."

I am a grandmother of four and I am concerned about what is making it onto the airwaves. I understand that many find the content and language used in some programs intolerable, especially for children. However, because I am also a strong proponent of the First Amendment and oppose inappropriate restrictions on free speech, I must weigh concerns about questionable content against the need to protect free speech.

I think we also need to be careful about passing a bill that gives "Big Brother" a heavy hammer to punish those who violate his notion of decency. I believe that increasing fines to \$325,000 per incident would have a chilling effect on creativity, lead to second-guessing of material, pulling programs, and other forms of censorship. As I have said before, we run a great risk when our legislation threatens to undermine both our Constitution and our creativity.

If we are serious about improving broadcast content, which is what I think people really want to do, then we need to address the fact that large media conglomerates are allowed to gobble up independent stations that are much more sensitive to the communities they serve. Large media conglomerates are the main sources of indecent programming. Since 1999, 80 percent of the indecency findings have been against two media giants: Clear Channel and Viacom.

Not only do they lack knowledge of local community standards, but they also drown out the diversity of voices and viewpoints. Our constituents would be better served if we were voting to limit the over-concentration of media ownership, not to increase fines.

While I do not support S. 193, I am glad that my colleagues agree that the even more problematic H.R. 310 is not the route to take. Censoring artists with outrageous fines and threatening broadcasters' licenses should something "indecent" make it on the airwaves would have caused even more damage to our First Amendment than the bill before us today. Regardless, I think S. 193 opens the door to future attacks at one of our Nation's funda-

mental freedoms and I urge my colleagues to vote no.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LAREDO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, the Ursulines, an order founded in Italy by Saint Angela Merici in 1535, were the first religious women to come to the New World. The sisters, who had been in New Orleans since 1727, were the first order to volunteer for service in the new State of Texas, establishing a long-held presence in the communities of Galveston, San Antonio, Dallas, Pecos, and Laredo.

Whereas, Mother Saint Joseph Aubert, one of the esteemed Ursuline sisters, at the request of Bishop Claude Dubuis, went to Laredo in the State of Texas with Sister Teresa Pereida to establish a convent and a school for the education of the young women in the City of Laredo in May 15th, 1868.

Whereas, the convent for the Ursuline Sisters was built on January 15th 1869, and the Sisters began to educate girls of every age and condition. This was the beginning of their contribution to the education of the youth of the City of Laredo, Texas, for over a hundred and thirty-eight years.

Whereas, the Ursuline Sisters established St. Peter's Memorial School in 1989, Ursuline Academy in 1940, and were a part of the faculty at Our Lady of Guadalupe Elementary School, and Blessed Sacrament School.

Whereas, the new era of Ursuline education was begun through Ursuline Academy, which became a well-recognized center of education, serving as a college preparatory high school. Many graduates of Ursuline Academy went onto higher education, obtaining advanced degrees due to their excellent education provided them by the Ursuline Sisters.

Whereas, loyal to their Ursuline calling and tradition, despite all the difficulties and challenges of their journey, the Ursulines remained committed to their ministerial call in the City of Laredo in providing education to the youth of the City of Laredo until their departure from the City of Laredo this spring.

Whereas, at the end of their service in the City of Laredo for a hundred and forty years, the Ursuline Sisters of Laredo will be forever remembered for their educational commitment to the youth of Laredo, and their religious service to the City of Laredo. In the Spirit of Saint Angela, their founder, they will continue to be women of peace and reconciliation in our world today, living and working for peace through justice in all their relationships toward all peoples and cultures, and towards the earth and all creation.

Be it hereby resolved, That Congressman Henry Cuellar commends the Ursuline Sisters for their religious service to the community of Laredo, and their remarkable history of providing quality education for the youth of Laredo, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. EDGAR AND MAGALI FERNANDEZ: 36 YEARS ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. and Mrs. Edgar and Magali Fernandez. For nearly four decades, they have been pioneers and leaders in the field of early childhood care and education, which is of crucial importance to our society and to every parent of young children.

Their careers have culminated in the establishment of the South Florida Association for Child Care Management (SFACCM), a non-profit professional organization which was established in 2000. On Saturday, June 10, 2006, SFACCM will hold its first summer institute, a one-day seminar for those seeking to become early childhood education professionals.

SFACCM, which is an affiliate of the Florida Association for Child Care Management, is a professional organization of education providers dedicated to ensuring quality in early learning through advocacy, education, and accreditation. Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez's leadership of SFACCM has served as an inspiration to countless other educators and has helped set high standards in early childhood care. Those helped by SFACCM's programs number in the thousands.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez have long realized the importance of early childhood education as key to success in adulthood; it creates a strong foundation for our society and helps families and businesses to thrive. Edgar and Magali Fernandez truly value the need for the quality care and learning that our children deserve.

I know that my colleagues join with me in expressing our sincere appreciation for the contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez to our community and to our state. Their endeavors to ensure the quality and affordability of early childhood care and education are having a huge, positive impact on the lives of countless children—our most important national resource. Congratulations to them both on 36 years of caring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 6, 2006 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 223, 224, 225, and 226. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the King (IA) amendment, the Kingston amendment, and the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair. I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5441, the FY07 Homeland Security appropriations bill.