

come to an end, she will continue to have an affect on us all.

HONORING JAMES A. WILLIAMS,
DIRECTOR, US-VISIT PROGRAM
AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of James (Jim) Williams, Director of the Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program. After a strong tenure heading up US-VISIT, Jim has agreed to take on new challenges as Commissioner of the Federal Acquisition Service in the General Services Administration.

Jim is a selfless public servant, and has been an effective leader at the Department of Homeland Security. US-VISIT is a continuum of security measures that keep America's doors open and our Nation secure. US-VISIT begins overseas, at the U.S. consular offices issuing visas, where visitors' biometrics are collected and checked against a database of known criminals and suspected terrorists. When the visitor arrives at the port of entry, US-VISIT use the same biometrics to verify the person at the port is the same person who received the visa.

Jim understands that strong security measures, when done right, keep the Nation secure and open to legitimate travelers and tourists. He has had the vision and follow-through to oversee the installation of biometric entry procedures at 154 land border ports of entry and at airports and seaports with international arrivals. In turn, US-VISIT has processed nearly 60 million visitors to date, and denied entry to more than 1,100 criminals and immigration violators. At the same time, US-VISIT has not affected wait times at the border and in some instances has actually reduced inspection times. These accomplishments have been appropriately recognized by the ten members of the 9/11 Commission, who gave US-VISIT the highest grade on their final report card.

Thanks in large part to Jim and the team he has assembled, we now have 21st century tools to address our emerging security challenges. These tools are allowing the U.S. to deal more effectively with threats of terrorism, while keeping us competitive in the global economy. I know that Jim will be missed at US-VISIT. I have enjoyed working with him over the past 2 years, and would like to wish him well as he takes on new challenges at the General Services Administration.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARIEL COHEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ariel Cohen for her remarkable recovery from pediatric stroke and the inspiration she has provided to other pediatric patients at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH).

Ariel's life was profoundly changed on November 30, 2005 when she was struck with a

very rare, often initially misdiagnosed, and almost always seriously debilitating condition—pediatric stroke. Having initially experienced complete paralysis on the left side of her body, Ariel was truly fighting for her life. After eight days in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Ariel entered NRH. Upon her arrival Ariel quickly progressed in the Pediatric Unit at NRH to the point of being able to sit unassisted, and was soon capable of limited weight bearing on her left side.

The first two weeks at NRH saw a striking turn in Ariel's recovery as the strength and control in Ariel's leg, trunk and face progressed rapidly. The Cohen's credit NRH, and specifically the National Center for Children's Rehabilitation, for offering Ariel a well balanced approach to recovery, one that utilized the many disciplines of physical rehabilitation, counseling and aquatic therapy, the most technologically advanced equipment and processes, as well as the incorporation of peer support and an incredible amount of positive reinforcement. Within the first week, Ariel learned to really like and trust her therapists. She looked forward to her sessions, and she was always made to feel successful—no matter how small the gain.

For all that Ariel has received; she has given back—cooking her famous chocolate chip pancakes for the NRH team members who assisted in her rehab, using her own room decorations, surprising a fellow teen at NRH with a room makeover in a well-timed "sneak attack." She was an inspiration for all the pediatric patients at NRH—working incredibly hard with a spirit and determination to recover that has never waned. And while it is true that no 13-year-old girl wants to stand out, Ariel has taken in stride that by standing out, she offers much to other victims of pediatric stroke. From that day in November and Ariel's subsequent ongoing recovery springs a wealth of knowledge on the part of the medical community and, as Ariel hopes, educational resources for other families coping with the effects of pediatric stroke. Every day, Ariel pushes herself to recover more fully, always keenly aware of the gifts she received as a patient at NRH—the keys to own her recovery, mentally, emotionally and physically. As the signs and symptoms of her stroke fade by the day, a complete recovery of use and function now appears probable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ariel Cohen. Her recovery from pediatric stroke is truly an inspiration and her efforts to assist in the recovery of her fellow patients are commendable. When I met Ariel, I couldn't help but be inspired by her determination and passion, which is why I am recognizing her today. She is truly a remarkable young woman, and I wish her the best in her continuing recovery.

INTRODUCTION ON THE IRAQ CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Ms. BARDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Iraq Congressional Oversight Enhancement Act. I serve on the Committee on Armed Services in the House and have

traveled to Iraq 8 times. These trips have allowed me to see Iraq first-hand, to meet with our fighting men and women and civilians serving there, and to learn from them the facts on the ground in that country. This legislation recognizes the complexity of the mission in Iraq and the need for enhanced Congressional oversight based upon comprehensive reporting from the administration.

This legislation is intended to enhance Congressional oversight of our operations in Iraq. This bill would not set a timetable to dictate the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. This bill would require that the President transmit periodically to Congress a consolidated, comprehensive report on the implementation of the National Strategy for Victory in Iraq. This bill would also provide the Congress the vital measures or other benchmarks for Iraq's political, security, and economic development and metrics by which progress towards these benchmarks can be more effectively measured and assessed.

This legislation would affirm Congress's support of our troops and civilian personnel in Iraq, and expresses its concern regarding the continued, deadly insurgent attacks against them. This legislation also would affirm Congress's support for the formation of a democratic, pluralistic, federal, and united Iraq, while urging elected Iraqi leaders to maintain and preserve a national unity government for the Iraqi people. Moreover, this bill recognizes the complex and interdependent nature of the challenges associated with the political, security, infrastructure, and economic development of Iraq, including governance capacity building at and between the various levels of government in Iraq.

The National Strategy for Victory in Iraq, presented by the President on November 30, 2005, is an informative document. The Strategy represents progress toward defining the terms for victory in Iraq. I believe, however, more progress on defining the current mission in Iraq and the benchmarks for achieving victory are necessary. This legislation would require the President to transmit to Congress a report to back-up the Strategy by identifying benchmarks and by using metrics.

It is true that two recent legislative initiatives have required reports along these lines. They are the section entitled "Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq" of House Conference Report 109-72 accompanying H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005, Public Law 109-13, and the U.S. Policy in Iraq Act, Section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Public Law 109-163.

These reports, provided to Congress by the Secretary of Defense, contain useful information. But, when taken together, the reports are not sufficient for Congress to fully exercise its oversight responsibilities pertaining to this war. These reports also do not provide the American people a clear and full picture of what the United States seeks to achieve in Iraq, what the United States Armed Forces and civilian personnel are doing to achieve those objectives, and where we are in the process of achieving them—at the various levels of government within Iraq.

Our service in this body is never more consequential than it is when our troops are in harm's way. Debate regarding issues of war and peace deserves sober reflection, reasoned thinking, critical focus, and balanced

perspective. This is an institutional responsibility for the House of Representatives. But it is also a personal responsibility for each of us as representatives of our constituents. The sacrifices made by our military and civilian personnel serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, those made by Coalition personnel, and those made by Iraqis themselves only further reinforce the need to elevate our discussion on the merits of and challenges associated with what remains of the mission in Iraq.

I believe an honest and open exchange of views on the substance of what our country and our allies seek to achieve in Iraq is needed. This legislation would provide us the information we need to make better informed decisions on policy with regard to Iraq.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF CHESTER AND
IRENE BROZEK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to pay tribute to Chester and Irene Brozek of Three Rivers, Massachusetts, upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

It was June 16, 1956, that Chester and Irene wed at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Three Rivers, Massachusetts. They have lived their lives together in that small town, attended the same schools—in the same class—and raised four sons and a daughter; Steven, Jim, David, Carolyn and Michael.

Chester, or Zab, worked at the Monsanto Company in Indian Orchard for more than 30 years. Irene worked for the Town of Palmer in the Tax Collector's Office, becoming the tax collector and retiring from that position.

On Saturday, June 24th Chester and Irene will return to Saints Peter and Paul Church to celebrate with their children, their 12 grandchildren, relatives and friends this momentous occasion. I congratulate them and wish them health, best wishes and happiness in their years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GIBRAN
BAYDOUN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gibran Baydoun for winning the 2006 National Endowment for the Arts Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Championship.

Gibran Baydoun attends Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada and recently won the Nevada State Finals for the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Out Loud Contest held in Carson City. Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, this program encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems. Poetry Out Loud invites the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class. This exciting new program helps students master public

speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

Mr. Speaker, having met and listened to Gibran Baydoun, I am proud to honor him for his success at the Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Championship. Gibran's successful memorization and performance of great poems at the Nevada State Finals is a note worthy achievement.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the costs of Hurricane Katrina and Rita are far more than dollar amounts. For days, thousands of people fought for survival among the rising flood waters, lack of food and water, and outlaws victimizing the weak and helpless. In an attempt to lead the smallest victims of the hurricanes to safety, desperate, yet well-meaning parents sent their children with family and evacuation workers fleeing for safety. Their hope was to reunite after the storm; however, full panic soon engulfed Louisiana and Texas. Many parents found it impossible to locate these children once the storms had passed. Terrified parents made heart wrenching pleas to anyone who would listen. They spent countless hours praying for news of their kids.

Mr. Speaker, one organization heard their prayers and responded with the will and manpower to find these children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children would undertake the tremendous task of locating 5,172 missing children. Mr. Speaker, after the winds stopped and the flood waters receded, all 5,172 children were found. It was only through the unwavering and relentless dedication that these children were found, and returned to the safe arms of their parents. I now pay tribute to those tireless children crusaders.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC, was established in 1984 by John and Reve Walsh in response to the kidnapping and disappearance of their son, Adam, in 1981. The center makes it their mission to locate, and successfully bring home, missing children across the United States. When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit Louisiana and Texas, the U.S. Department of Justice requested NCMEC's help in locating the displaced children of the hurricanes' victims. NCMEC responded with lightning speed, establishing a Katrina Missing Persons Hotline, with 30 telephones and 160 highly trained Project ALERT and Project ADAM volunteers to man the hotlines. Over the next few days, they would report thousands of missing child sightings.

These child crusaders spent long days and nights looking throughout America for these missing children. Photographs were used to help identify these children. The center tracked down leads, handled phone calls, and in the end, reunited families. They did not perform these tasks all on their own, however. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, USPS, American Airlines, and thousands of nameless, silent volunteers aided the NCMEC in the successful recovery of all 5,172 missing children.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service responded to the prayers for help much like the NCMEC. These highly dedicated lawmen and women used the U.S. Postal Service's change of address information system to reunite these families. Safety precautions were taken by the USPS to ensure no misuse of the information system occurred. Members of the highly trained Project ALERT and Project ADAM teams, as well as the NCMEC case analysts, worked in cooperation with the special Hurricanes Katrina and Rita change of address operation in Tennessee, reunited children with parents. American Airlines became the angels in the sky for the NCMEC, donating numerous airline tickets, which successfully led to 89 children being brought home safe.

I was present when First Lady Laura Bush held a reception on Monday, June 12, at the White House to show appreciation to all those wonderful people. She invited these heroes to join her, along with six Members of Congress, and several of the reunited families. Everyone extended heart-felt gratitude for the tireless efforts achieved by these individuals. Rebecca Gonzales, wife of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and John and Reve Walsh were present as well. The First Lady praised the collaborative efforts of these organizations and individuals, expressing her gratitude for the heroes who relentlessly crusaded for the most helpless victims of the hurricanes—the children.

It is my honor to pay tribute to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, as well as the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, American Airlines, and thousands of volunteers for answering the prayers of the despondent hurricane parents. Today, 5,172 children have been led back to their families, another example of Americans helping Americans when the tidewaters of trouble have risen.

WE THE PEOPLE ALABAMA CLASS
PLACES FOURTH AT NATIONAL
COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITU-
TION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, from April 29–May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. I am pleased to announce that Vestavia Hills High School from Birmingham, Alabama placed fourth in the competition. The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

The We the People national finals is a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students "testify" before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Among the questions students