

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Tunkhannock Township, PA, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

With an area of 38.9 square miles, Tunkhannock Township was once part of Coolbaugh Township that was founded in 1794. Tunkhannock Township became a separate township in 1830 and, in 1856, it was officially formed.

Two of the earliest known settlers were Peter Merwine, who arrived in 1804 and George Altomose, who arrived about 1830. An 1875 map of Long Pond, the major community within the township, reflects that the land was primarily owned by Merwine and Altomose. Other owners included Nathan Hetter, Stephen Kistler, M. George, M. Heller, Levi Knecht, Mrs. Keiper, R.B. Bonser, H. Kingshold, J. Kresge, L. Bierman, P. Larzalere, Mrs. Barrall, E. Eckhart, Philip Henning and E. Christman.

According to the census of 1900, Tunkhannock Township had a population of 329. By 1960, the population had dwindled to 214. Today, the population has expanded to 4,983.

In its early days, the Township developed two sawmills that provided some employment opportunities and encouraged commercial activity. Three hotels emerged by 1856 including the Mount Pocono Hotel, Cold Spring Hotel and Tunkhannock Hotel. They all thrived from new settlers arriving to find land to build new lives and from weary travelers needing shelter and food.

In 1883, the first post office opened in Long Pond. A one-room elementary school opened in Long Pond although student populations were small. Electricity did not come to the township until about 1940.

Today Tunkhannock Township is, perhaps, best known as the home of the Pocono International Raceway, founded by Dr. Joseph Mattioli in 1968. The raceway has become internationally known and attracts hundreds of thousands of race fans annually. The facility is responsible for putting millions of dollars into the local economy over the years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Tunkhannock Township on this auspicious occasion. Tunkhannock Township enjoys a rich heritage as a quiet residential community which has given birth to a tremendous economic engine in the form of the Pocono International Raceway that is helping fuel the economy of the entire Pocono region and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF NOW-NYC'S 26TH ANNUAL SUSAN B. ANTHONY AWARDS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of NOW-NYC and the recipients of the 2006 Susan B. Anthony Awards and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Award. Whether it's fighting against the appointment of Judge Alito, demanding an increase in the availability of emergency contraception or working to end the statute of limitations for rape in New York State, the members of NOW-NYC have been leaders in standing up for women's rights.

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Award is presented to a woman of outstanding achievement who has made important contributions toward creating a more equal society and has served as a role model for other women. The Susan B. Anthony Awards honor women who have accomplished something remarkable. Each of this year's recipients has, in her own way, spoken up, spoken out, gotten involved and made a difference. They are our role models and heroines.

Councilwoman Gale Brewer, recipient of this year's Elizabeth Cady Stanton Award, is an outstanding member of the New York City Council, representing Manhattan's Upper West Side. She is a strong ally, a good friend and a champion of women's rights and human rights. Brewer has been instrumental in passing numerous laws, the most recent being the Human Rights Bill, which protects domestic partnerships from discrimination and retaliation in the workplace. In 2000, the Daily News hailed her as "One of 50 New Yorkers to Watch."

When the crime rate in their North Brooklyn neighborhood began to rise, Oraia Reid and Consuelo Ruybal started helping women take back the night by offering them a safe way home. In 2004 they founded RightRides, a not-for-profit organization that offers free late-night rides home to women in several Brooklyn neighborhoods and parts of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Their creative response to improving women's safety so impressed Mayor Michael Bloomberg, that December 12, 2005, was named "RightRides for Women's Safety Day."

Nancy Lublin has proved that one person really can change the world. Recognizing that what you wear can make the difference between getting the job and getting shown the door, she created Dress for Success, which provides business attire for low income women who are seeking jobs. For many women, that would have been enough. But Nancy saw another need—the need to encourage kids to get involved in their communities and to recognize their achievements when they do. So she agreed to become CEO of Do Something, an organization, founded in

1993 by Andrew Shue (of Melrose Place) and Michael Sanchez, childhood friends who wanted to make community service as cool as sports. Do Something has distributed over 1 million dollars through its Brick Awards to young people who are making a difference in their communities. In 1998, CNN dubbed the BRICK Awards "The Oscars for young people in service".

Former NOW-NYC President and current Chair of the Board, Jane Manning has taken her activism to the courts as well as to the streets. A graduate of Yale College and NYU Law School, Jane served as Assistant District Attorney for six years and currently defends women's rights as a human rights attorney for the non-profit organization Equality Now. A dedicated advocate for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and trafficking, Jane launched NOW-NYC's campaign to repeal New York's statute of limitations on rape cases and works closely with human rights groups to bring an end to the human rights epidemic of trafficking in women. Recently she represented a coalition of feminist organizations before New York State's highest court, arguing as amici curiae to reverse an appellate court decision that would have made the defense of extreme emotional disturbance almost universally available to men who kill their wives or girlfriends. In a unanimous decision, the court reversed the lower court's decision and ruled in favor of the feminist groups.

Finally, I want to congratulate Kathleen Ham, a symbol of courage to rape victims around the country. She is one of the reasons I fought so hard to pass the Debbie Smith Act. In June of 1973, Kathleen Ham was brutally attacked and raped in her New York apartment. Although the suspect was immediately apprehended while fleeing the scene, the trial resulted in a hung jury. In 2005, DNA technology linked the man charged in her rape definitively not only to her rape but also to at least 23 other rapes in Maryland and New Jersey over the past 32 years. Knowing that this serial rapist must be put behind bars, Ms. Ham courageously decided to take the stand once again, and to go public with her identity and story. When she came forward, nine other women also came forward to say that this man had raped them. Their stories are being used to illustrate the absurdity of New York's five-year statute of limitations for rape.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the 2006 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Award winners.

HONORING DISNEY TEACHER
AWARD HONOREE LYNN
ASTARITA GATTO

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, Aristotle once said "All who have meditated on the art

● 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.

of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."

With this wisdom in mind, I rise today to honor an outstanding New York State teacher, Lynn Astarita Gatto, and to congratulate her on being chosen as a recipient of the 2006 Disney Teacher Award. Ms. Gatto is a second grade teacher at Henry Hudson Elementary No. 28, a school located in my Congressional district.

Each year a select group of teachers across the country are chosen as Disney honorees by a group of their peers that includes representatives from leading educational institutions and former Disney award honorees. This year, 44 winners were chosen out of a field of over 75,000 teachers. Ms. Gatto was among this elite group and is being acknowledged for her creativity, innovative teaching methods, and ability to inspire students.

An educator for over 30 years, Ms. Gatto has devoted her life to the betterment of children. Her life-long service warrants particular praise because she has spent the majority of her career in an urban school largely made up of children from low-income families and those struggling with poverty. Ms. Gatto has chosen to focus her energy on students with differing abilities and has provided them with the tools needed for building successful futures.

In addition to her innovative work at Henry Hudson Elementary, Ms. Gatto has published articles in teacher journals, contributed to academic books, and written science modules for elementary school students. Each spring, she teaches a course at the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education on the theory and learning of elementary science. Ms. Gatto was also recognized in 2004 for her excellence in teaching when she was chosen as the New York State Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask that you join me in congratulating Ms. Lynn Astarita Gatto on being selected as a Disney Teacher Award honoree and for her tireless efforts to empower her students. She is a role model to educators, and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIANT'S DESPAIR HILL CLIMB IN LAUREL RUN

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Sports Car Club of America and Laurel Run Borough, sponsors of the Giant's Despair Hill Climb in Laurel Run, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Begun in 1906 as a supreme test of man and automotive machine, the hill climb has captured the imagination of many of America's premier race drivers and has provided a challenging course that has continued to attract racing aficionados year after year for the past century.

Over the years, the Giant's Despair Hill Climb has played host to some famous personalities who dared to challenge the course's grueling and dangerous turns. Those people

included Hugh Harding, Louis Chevrolet, Ralph DePalma, Carroll Shelby, Roger Penske, Bud Faust, Dellevan Lee, Dave Garroway, John Van Meyer, Oscar Koveleski, Jackie Cooper, John Halbing and Ron Moreck.

Held just outside of Wilkes-Barre in Laurel Run Borough on East Northampton Street, the Giant's Despair Hill Climb starts out as a long, gently rising straightaway about one quarter mile in length that leads into a fast left turn that tests both nerves and skill. Then it goes on to a short chute and the "Devil's Elbow," a sharply rising hairpin turn that goes off camber at its crest. Next is a series of 90 degree turns connected by short straights. Finally comes the incline, a meandering quarter mile stretch that rises at 22 degrees to the finish line.

Ron Moreck finished the course in 39.914 seconds in 2001 and is the current race record holder.

The Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Sports Car Club of America predicts at least 10,000 race fans from West Virginia to Connecticut will come to the area to see the race and that over \$100,000 in revenues will be generated for the local economy.

Oscar Koveleski, who won the race and set a new time record in 1977 that held for 15 years, described the event as one of the best hill climbs in the world. He also noted that the event has generated much interest from manufacturers of alternative fuel vehicles that include propane, electric hybrids, converted Indianapolis 500 cars that run on methanol, biodiesel and other fuels.

The original hill climb winner in 1906 finished the race in 2 minutes and 11 seconds. Technology and racing skills over the past 100 years have evolved to the point where the current record is 39 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the organizers and participants of the Giant's Despair Hill Climb. Over the past century, they and their predecessors have established and maintained an event of epic proportions that has captivated and entertained generations of Americans and has contributed to the advancement of automotive technology that has served this Nation well in this era of global economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALICIA HOLLOWELL FOR OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC COLLEGIATE ACHIEVEMENTS AS PITCHER FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPION ARIZONA WILDCATS

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alicia Hollowell, a Suisun City resident and Fairfield High School graduate for her outstanding performance as a pitcher for the Arizona Wildcats.

Ms. Hollowell was born on February 29, 1984 to Doug and Suzanne Hollowell of Suisun City.

On June 6, 2006, Ms. Hollowell struck out 13 batters, while pitching a complete game in Arizona's 5-0 victory over Northwestern giving Arizona the 2006 NCAA Women's Softball Championship. For her efforts she was named

the College World Series Most Outstanding Player.

Arizona's championship caps off a stellar collegiate career. During Ms. Hollowell's 4 years at Arizona, she compiled a 144 win 23 loss record with a minuscule earned run average under 0.90. In addition she struck out over 1700 batters.

Success is nothing new for Ms. Hollowell. While attending Fairfield High School she received the Gatorade Player of the Year award which is considered by many as the most Prestigious High School Athletic Award.

She left Fairfield High as the recordholder for strikeouts in a season, strikeouts in a career, and most wins in a career. A true testament of her will to win was her 61 strikeout performance in a 30 inning game.

On June 19, 2006, another of Ms. Hollowell's goals was fulfilled when she was named for the second straight year to the USA Softball Women's National Team where she will be competing for her second straight International Softball Federation World Championship in China.

As Alicia moves to the next phase of her life I wish her continued success. I know she will continue to represent the United States well.

TRIBUTE TO THE PATRIOTISM AND HEROISM OF MEL RING

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and heroism of Mr. Mel Ring.

Mr. Ring served with distinction in the Army Air Corps during the harrowing days of the Second World War. As a B-17 crew member in the 815th Squadron of the 483 Bombardment Group, Mr. Ring and his fellow crew members played an integral role in the Allied defeat of Nazi Germany.

The crew of the *Good Deal* formed in November 1943 with Mr. Melbourne Ring of Crook, CO, as one of the 13-member crew, which included Paul E. Ray, Warren O. Griffin, Carl B. Hardy, Gerald Kramer, Foster F. Knight, James I. Korshak, Walter J. Gladioux, August O. Bresciz, Theodore Engelun, Fred A. Clark, Jr., Robert J. Dalzin, and John M. Spear.

On April 12, 1944 Mr. Ring and the crew of the *Good Deal* participated in their first mission to Split, Yugoslavia. In the following months, the crew of the *Good Deal* saw action over Toulon, Milan, Weiner Neustadt, Vienna, Budapest, Blechhammer, Ploesti, and Memmingen.

Despite the fact that 14 of 26 American B-17s were lost over the German town of Memmingen on July 18, 1944, Mr. Ring and his crewmates successfully downed seven German fighters.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Mr. Ring's distinguished service and humbled by his courageous patriotism. The sacrifices he and the men of the *Good Deal* made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Melbourne D. Ring and the crew of the *Good Deal*.

TRIBUTE LINDA HIRVONEN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated the last nine years of her life to spurring economic growth and development in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Ms. Linda Hirvonen retired at the end of June as Director of the Delta County Economic Development Alliance. During her time there, she worked tirelessly on economic and community development in northern Michigan.

Ms. Hirvonen was critical to business and job growth in Delta County. As of April 2006, there were 2,400 more people in the workforce than when she began in 1997. Ms. Hirvonen assisted 575 individuals and companies looking to start a business or relocate in Delta County. Those statistics are impressive and speak to Ms. Hirvonen's record of success and accomplishment. However, they only tell part of the story. What she will perhaps be remembered for most is the leadership and vision in economic development that she brought to the job and to Delta County.

Ms. Hirvonen is credited by many as coining the term "coopetition," the concept that private businesses should cooperate with each other and with nonprofits to develop the community infrastructure that will facilitate economic growth and lay the foundation for a stable business environment. This concept of "coopetition" has guided Delta County's Economic Development Alliance and the many programs that Ms. Hirvonen developed during her tenure.

Ms. Hirvonen was instrumental in the creation of the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance and served as the Alliance's first president. She saw to the creation of the Bay Area Economic Club and served as the Club's permanent board secretary. She pioneered the creation of Delta Force, the community leadership development program.

A newcomer herself to the area in 1997, Ms. Hirvonen established a program through the Alliance that provides a network of support for newcomers to Delta County. She recognized that for the community to grow, newcomers to the area need to feel welcome. The newcomers unit provided a valuable network for those individuals and businesses that are new to Delta County.

Ms. Hirvonen also led the Alliance's efforts to better assess the needs of existing businesses in the Upper Peninsula. Thanks to her leadership, the Economic Development Alliance implemented the Upper Peninsula Business Barometer, a UP-wide survey of existing businesses to better understand business' needs and strengths.

The overarching goal of the Economic Development Alliance has been to support and assist business creation, growth and expansion in Delta County. Ms. Hirvonen has been tremendously successful in advancing that goal, attracting several businesses to Delta County. She is particularly proud of one new business, Issues and Answers Network. This business came to Delta County in 2001 and, with the Alliance's help, opened two more locations throughout the Upper Peninsula. The company employs 150 people in Escanaba

and, thanks to this expansion, Issues and Answers should employ more than 300 people throughout the Upper Peninsula by the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Linda Hirvonen has made it her business to see to business expansion and growth in Delta County and in the Upper Peninsula. Bringing business and economic growth to smaller, rural communities is often challenging. It can only happen when people like Ms. Hirvonen dedicate themselves to the effort. Today, after nine years of distinguished service to her community, I congratulate Ms. Hirvonen on a job well done.

Her husband, Dr. Michael Allkins, recently retired himself. The two of them will now have more time for their mutual pastimes of golf, long walks on sandy beaches and martinis at sunset. To both of them, I say: enjoy, you have earned it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the House of Representatives join me in congratulating my friend, my constituent, Ms. Linda Hirvonen and thanking her for her hard work and nine years of service to Delta County and Michigan's entire Upper Peninsula.

SUPPORT FOR EAST TIMOR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, several of us in the House are proud of the role we played in helping gain independence for the new nation of East Timor, and we have been pleased by the commitment of the leaders of that new nation to democracy. In particular, we believe that the President, Xanana Gusmao, and the former Foreign Minister and newly-designated Prime Minister, Jose Ramos Horta, have shown a commitment to the maintenance of a fully democratic society. In fact, President Gusmao—widely known and revered by the people of East Timor as Xanana—worked to get a candidate to oppose him in the first presidential election in the country because he wanted to set the right precedent.

It was with great sadness therefore that we watched the violence that wracked this small country in recent weeks, and we believe that it is very important that the responsible leadership of East Timor receive the support they need to make this violence a temporary interruption in their progress as a nation. One very important element in this effort is the United Nations, contrary to those who would dismiss the UN as of no use in today's world. In a recent article in the Boston Globe, Prime Minister Ramos Horta and Raj Purohit make the case that "it is vital that the UN continue to lead an inclusive effort to insure that Timor-Leste (the Portuguese official name for East Timor) becomes a strong democratic member of the international community." In addition to the UN, Australia has played a very constructive role in helping deal with the problems of this new nation.

Mr. Speaker, the recent violence is a sad fact, but it should not lead to pessimism about the longer-term future of East Timor. Instead, members of the international community should heed the words of Jose Ramos Horta and Raj Purohit and support the steps that will

lead to a stable and democratic future for this new nation. In particular, they ask that the new UN Peace Building Commission make East Timor one of the objects of its work, and I hope that this request will be supported by the United States Government and honored by the Peace Building Commission so that, in the words of the authors of this article, we can see that "Timor-Leste finally takes its place among the world's stable democratic countries."

[From the Boston Globe]

JOSE RAMOS HORTA AND RAJ PUROHIT

In recent weeks commentators have framed the uprisings in Timor Leste as a country that has spiraled into violence despite UN peacekeepers. This gives the false impression that the United Nations has failed in the country formerly known as East Timor. The reality is significantly different.

Having declared its independence a mere four years ago, Timor Leste is still a fledgling nation emerging from the aftermath of a long, and often bloody, struggle for freedom. Though citizens have been ably assisted by various UN missions as they attempt to build the country, Timor Leste still has many challenges to overcome. These challenges include speeding up reconciliation, building a democratic political culture, instilling the rule of law, and creating an economy that is able to provide sustainable livelihoods for its people.

While critics correctly note that efforts for reintegration and development must be redoubled, they fail to note that international commitment to long-term peace-building processes must also be redoubled. Peace-building processes that pay attention to a nation's need to feed, employ, govern, and heal itself are essential in any nation-building process. But the world failed to offer sufficient assistance to Timor Leste. The world community, including the United States, moved on to the next failing state before Timor Leste had sufficient strength to stand on its own.

Now we are at the point in Timor Leste's nation-building process where the key stakeholders need to make a calculated assessment of what needs to be done next, coupled with a renewed political and financial commitment to a UN-driven process. Yes, missteps occurred, but this does not demand a radical change of direction nor should nations abandon Timor Leste at this critical juncture.

The first order of business is to address the violence caused by the dismissal of 600 striking soldiers. In the short term, the combination of regional and UN assistance coupled with a commitment from local government officials to address the tension will help dampen the fighting. In the long term, Timor Leste, working with regional governments, in particular Australia, will need to address the broad security challenges underlying the current instability.

Second, and perhaps more significant, it is vital that the UN continue to lead an inclusive effort to ensure that Timor Leste becomes a strong, democratic member of the international community. The UN is the logical body to coordinate this initiative and it seems logical that the new UN Peace Building Commission should play a central role in this effort.

The Peace Building Commission was formed to improve the coordination of relevant actors within and outside the UN and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery. In the case of Timor Leste, the commission should coordinate efforts to ensure that:

There is an aggressive and sustained campaign to improve the livelihood of Timor

Leste's people. This effort requires local buy-in and assistance from the World Bank and national and regional development groups.

Local systems of governance are developed and respect for the rule of law is cultivated. In particular, emphasis should be placed on judicial institutions, which will enable accountability for past and current crimes.

Peace and security is guaranteed for Timor Leste. Peacekeepers, instead of leaving prematurely, must remain to support military and police troops.

The Peacebuilding Commission is selecting which post-conflict nation-states to adopt. Along with Burundi and Sierra Leone, Timor Leste is high on the list. The world community has an opportunity to rally behind Timor Leste, rather than abandon it, and help this nation become healthy and strong—a peace-building process that will take a long-term commitment from every international institution.

Ian Martin, former special representative for the UN secretary general for East Timor, is forecasting a larger role for the UN. He should recommend that the Peacebuilding Commission take the lead in ensuring Timor Leste finally takes its place among the world's stable democratic countries.

HONORING SPRINGHILL MEDICAL CENTER AS A LEADER IN HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Springhill Medical Center.

For the past 31 years Springhill Medical Center has served the people of south Alabama through quality medical service. The administration and staff of Springhill Medical Center pride themselves on numerous services they provide to the community while maintaining a personalized approach to patient care.

I am proud to say that Springhill Medical Center is recognized as being in the top 5 percent of the most technically advanced hospitals in the United States. As a result of the hospital's investment in this technology, Springhill Medical Center was honored as a 2006 Laureate by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundations.

Springhill Medical Center was nominated and received this award based on the hospital's operations in the days following Hurricane Katrina. The high volume of patients treated following the hurricane would not have been possible without the integrated technology the hospital had in place. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the emergency room provided services to as many as 72 patients at one time. In the month following Hurricane Katrina, the hospital treated 600 more patients than the same time period the previous year.

Upon receiving the award, Mr. Bill Mason, president and CEO of Springhill Medical Center, said, "Our firm decision to significantly invest in our electronic information resources has paid off for our patients and for the physicians, nurses, and technicians who care for them, and the hospital. We've been able to offer our medical staff a tool that complements the excellent care offered at Springhill Medical Center."

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the administration and staff of Springhill Medical Center and their continuing leadership in healthcare technology and commitment to quality healthcare services throughout south Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH EL MONTE EMERGENCY RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate the South El Monte Emergency Resources Association in honor of their 50th anniversary. I am proud to recognize the invaluable contributions and charity of the South El Monte Emergency Resources Association on this historic occasion.

For over 50 years the mission of this small organization has been to "prevent homelessness and maintain stability by providing the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter for families and individuals in times of crisis." And for 50 years the South El Monte Emergency Resources Association has not faltered in upholding their noble and honorable mission. The impact they have had on thousands of lives is immeasurable. By implementing the American spirit of humble and compassionate charity, the South El Monte Resources Association has come to embody the best of the American people.

The association began their mission by providing second-hand clothing to children in unfortunate circumstances. Through the years they have expanded their services to include the provision of emergency food, clothing, home furnishings, sheets, blankets, medical supplies, and medical equipment to members of the community. Yet the work of the South El Monte Emergency Resources Association is not limited to these services; it extends beyond material assistance to provide moral support and guidance.

Today, in the face of poverty, homelessness, suffering, and insurmountable circumstances, we have hope because of groups like the South El Monte Emergency Resources Association. Without the support and assistance of such organizations, our many impoverished children, seniors, and community members would be left out in the cold with no hope in sight. Today we recognize the priceless services that charitable organizations provide to our society and I congratulate the South El Monte Emergency Resources Association for 50 years of being a model compassionate organization.

TRIBUTE TO SONNY DOLCI

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to share with my colleagues the passing of Sonny Dolci. Most Members of the House never met Sonny Dolci. But everyone

has a Sonny Dolci in their congressional district.

Sonny Dolci was a veterans' leader in Northport, Long Island. He died 3 days before Independence Day. And he had a special link to that day. Because he embodied the finest qualities of great Americans who refused to say 'no' when it came to their country or their community.

When the veterans of Northport wanted to build a new facility, Sonny Dolci said, "Give me the shovel."

When community leaders wanted to organize a celebration of Northport, Sonny helped lead what is today one of the largest festivals on Long Island: Cow Harbor Day.

When a Korean War memorial was planned, Sonny traveled to eastern Long Island, and climbed amongst the rocks to find the perfect facing.

Sonny would not take no for an answer. That is really what Independence Day is about: the Americans who refused to say no when faced with challenge.

Two hundred thirty years ago, George Washington found himself surrounded in NY by the most powerful Navy on earth. He didn't give in, he kept up the fight for independence. And we replaced foreign monarchy with American democracy.

One hundred forty years ago, Abraham Lincoln lost battle after battle for American unity. He didn't give up. He kept fighting until we replaced slavery with liberty.

And 60 years ago, men like Sonny Dolci left their homes for World War II and then Korea. They refused to say no to defeating tyranny and totalitarianism.

They came home, and looked at the moon. And when President Kennedy said we could even defeat the distance of space, they said, "Let's go".

That determination and spirit made us the country we are today. They wouldn't take no for an answer. And neither should we.

The threat today is our reliance on foreign oil. Our generation needs a Declaration of Energy Independence. If we can beat the British, defeat slavery, triumph in World War II and land Americans on the moon, we can design vehicles that get more than 40 miles per gallon. That is today's challenge.

Sonny Dolci never said "It's too hard" when it came to the safety and security of his country, his community, his comrades, or his children.

And as long as his spirit and fortitude lives in each of us, we will give the next generation of children the peace and security that Sonny fought and worked to give us.

And that is the greatest legacy of all.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JUDGE CORDELL MEEKS, JR.

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Kansas jurist who recently was taken from us too soon: 29th Judicial District Court Judge Cordell Meeks, Jr., who died unexpectedly on June 28th of a heart attack at age 63.

Born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, Judge Meeks served on the bench for nearly

26 years. A graduate of the University of Kansas and of KU's School of Law, he was a senior partner in the law firm of Meeks, Sutherland and McIntosh when he was appointed by Governor John Carlin in 1980 to fill a vacancy on the bench created by the death of his father, Cordell D. Meeks, Sr., the first African-American district court judge in Kansas.

Described as a "firm but fair" judge who maintained strict courtroom decorum, Judge Meeks also served on the boards of numerous community groups and civic organizations, including Children's Mercy Hospital, Rockhurst University, and the Liberty Memorial Association. He also served as a colonel and senior military judge in the Kansas Army National Guard. In 1999, he became the first African-American to serve on the board of the Truman Museum, a position he considered an honor because his father had been a friend of President Truman. In 2001 he was elected president of the American Lung Association.

Additionally, Judge Meeks was an active alumnus of the University of Kansas, where he served on the advisory board for minority development for KU's graduate school and for KU's Edwards Campus in Overland Park. In 2002, he received the alumni association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion, the organization's highest award for service to the University. As KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway said upon learning of Judge Meeks' death, "I know of no one who better understood than Cordell the importance of higher education and the door to opportunities that it opens. Cordell was an inspirational leader for racial equality in our region. He motivated us all to do better. We will miss him dearly."

Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to have known Cordell Meeks personally for many years. We first met during my junior year at the University of Kansas, where we both served as counselors in Joseph R. Pearson Residence Hall, and we remained close friends since that time, as we both progressed through careers in law. Judge Cordell Meeks truly was a well-respected member of our community whose life and work were centered around the basic ideals he held dear: justice, hope, strength, community and family. He was a valued friend and I know that all members of the Kansas City community join with me in sharing our thoughts and prayers with his widow, Mary Anne, and their son, Cordell, III, during their time of loss.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 29, 2006, I was absent for a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 357.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELVIRA "VERA" DURAZO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Elvira "Vera" M. Durazo of El Monte, California, a dedicated and compassionate woman known as the "Grandmother" of Mexican cuisine in the greater El Monte area, who passed away on June 24, 2006.

Vera opened the first Mexican food restaurant and tortilla factory in El Monte known as "Durazo's", bringing a taste of Mexico to the San Gabriel Valley. After many successful years at Durazo's, Vera turned her focus to contributing to the community as a volunteer. For more than three decades, Vera assisted the sight impaired and homebound elderly. She also organized the Convalescent Patient Project, which now gives more than 150 patients birthday and Christmas gifts in the El Monte area per year, and volunteered at health fairs and clinics, the monthly mini-mart at the Hack Crippen Senior Center, and Meals on Wheels.

Vera was particularly committed to the elderly in the local Latino community and founded the Club Hispano Americano. Club Hispano Americano is the largest Hispanic philanthropic organization for the elderly in the San Gabriel Valley.

Vera is survived by one son Edward Durazo, two daughters Rebecca Ramirez and Evelyn Prudhomme, eight grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and the community.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5638, PERMANENT ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill.

I believe that estate taxes at 2001 levels were inherently unfair. And I voted to reform those levels by increasing the exemption and lowering the tax rate through 2010. Today, I would vote for all estate tax reform that permanently raised the exemption to \$3.5 million for individuals and \$7 million for couples, while lowering the rate to 45 percent.

Unfortunately, the majority has refused to even entertain a compromise. In fact, they won't even allow us to vote on a compromise, even though they could vote against it. They insist that we either take or leave their bill: a \$700 billion cost, added to an existing \$8 trillion debt.

Why do we need compromise? Why can't I support the legislation before us today? For three reasons.

First, at a time of war that has been described as "generational", when we experienced shortages on the battlefield, funding cuts in Pentagon weapons systems, and cuts

in homeland security funding to my constituents in New York because of budget strains, adding an additional \$700 billion in estate tax relief is irresponsible. How is it that we have \$700 billion for estate tax relief, but just cut funds for a critical Air Force advanced energy program? Why is it that we slashed college loan programs because we had to save \$12 billion, but we have \$700 billion for estate tax repeal? How is it possible to defend cutting Homeland Security funds to NY by \$80 million because we can't afford it, and then pass a bill that spends \$700 billion to repeal the estate tax?

Second, I have been fighting for meaningful and permanent relief of the Alternative Minimum Tax, which has become the largest middle class tax increase in history. The Administration and Republican leadership of Congress has not agreed to real alternative minimum tax relief. All we can afford they say, is a temporary bandage every year. The cost of the permanent AMT reform that Representative LOWEY and I have introduced is about \$400 billion. The cost of permanent repeal of the estate tax is \$700 billion. Why is it that we can't afford tax relief for millions of middle class families, but we can afford twice the cost for tax relief to several thousand estates?

Third, a \$700 billion liability to the Federal Treasury represents a staggering unfunded liability for our children. Let me prove my point in specific and non-partisan terms.

Recently I attended a meeting with the Comptroller General of the United States. He was chosen to this position by President Bush, the Republican Speaker of the House, and the Republican Leader of the Senate.

The Comptroller described the long term fiscal position of the Federal Treasury. Over the next 30 years, Federal revenues will remain fairly constant as a percentage of the federal budget. On the spending side—even if we do what we have never been able to do, and keep spending at the level of inflation—our total costs will skyrocket, particularly with the rapid growth of our aging population. The resulting gap between revenues and expenses will be so huge that in 2040, the entire Federal budget will be adequate to pay for only two things: interest on debt, and a small piece of social security. Everything else—the military, veterans benefits, the FBI; the CIA, education, health, homeland security—will require either a catastrophic tax increase on our children, or abolition by our children. And today, we add \$700 billion to their problem.

Mr. Speaker, we can provide estate tax relief that is affordable and fair, by allowing a vote on Mr. POMEROY'S substitute. But denied that opportunity by the leadership, I cannot support a "take it leave it" bill. Not when, by taking this, I leave the real bill to our children.

A TRIBUTE TO ALAN SENITT

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ENGEL and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, I'd like to express our shock and horror at the death of Alan Senitt in Washington, DC, early yesterday morning.

Each of us came to know Alan as a staffer for Lord Greville Janner of Braunstone, United Kingdom. Lord Janner is a leader in European efforts to fight anti-Semitism and racism, and is the founding chairman of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians, an organization of which we are all members. Alan played a critical role in helping to bring this organization into existence.

Alan was a kind, dedicated and good person, a young man with enormous potential and great hopes for trying to build a better world. Alan devoted himself to a life in politics and intercommunal dialogue because he understood that it is only by effort and commitment that the wounds of our world can be knit up.

In a life of only 27 years, Alan was a dynamic student leader, an energetic voice for British Jewry and pro-Israel advocacy, a talented leader in the campaign against racism and bigotry, and a candidate for public office. The future he was so brutally denied would surely have been no less full of struggle, achievement and success.

His death is a tragic loss for each of us, the Jewish community in the United Kingdom, his wide circle of friends and, most of all, his family.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Senitt family: his parents, Karen and Jack, and his siblings, James and Emma, who have been so cruelly robbed of their son and brother. Alan leaves behind a legacy of compassion, vitality, good works and a vast potential tragically curtailed. He will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH OF PACE'S
NEW SANCTUARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to First United Methodist Church of Pace on the opening of their new sanctuary.

First United Methodist Church of Pace was founded in 1955 and has since grown to be a vital part of the Santa Rosa County community. The congregation began meeting in a single room of a cement block shop. The church has grown in many ways, most recently with the addition of their new sanctuary. In 1992 a building committee was formed to look into the possibility of expanding First United Methodist Church of Pace's facilities. With the financial and spiritual support of the congregation this vision has now become a reality.

From their humble beginning over 50 years ago, First United Methodist Church of Pace has blossomed into a thriving place of worship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to First United Methodist Church of Pace on the opening of their new sanctuary. The dedication of the congregation to their church should be commended, and I am pleased to have First United Methodist Church of Pace in my district.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN
MARY MAYNARD OF CITRUS
COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Maynard of Citrus County, Florida. Mary will soon do something that all of us strive for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born August 5, 1906 on a farm near Rushville, Indiana, Mary attended Webb High School in Rushville and later graduated from business college.

A farmer's wife until 1948, Mary eventually embarked on a career as a bookkeeper, real estate and mobile home salesperson and working for a prominent builder in Indianapolis selling new homes. In 1960, Mary and her daughter moved to Ft. Lauderdale where she continued her real estate and sales work.

Eventually settling in the Gulf Coast in 1975, Mary and her daughter moved first to Brooksville, and then in 1984 to Citrus County. Following several small strokes over the years, Mary has lived in Arbor Trails Nursing Home in Inverness, Florida for the past 3 years.

Her August 5th birthday celebration will be attended by family and friends from Minnesota, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio and Florida. In fact, Mary has a long lineage spread across the country, including a son and a daughter, six grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and ten great great grandchildren!

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Mary Maynard for reaching her 100th birthday this coming August. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

HONORING JEFFREY D. THOMAS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey D. Thomas of Oakland, California for his extraordinary service to California's 9th U.S. Congressional District. Following his work in the areas of politics, finance, and community development, Jeffrey served as the District Director in my Oakland District Office from January 2004 until June 2006. During that time, Jeffrey played an integral role as a leading member of my staff, and his enthusiasm for public service has brought a heightened sense of purpose to my office.

Jeffrey was born in Mississippi in 1963, in the midst of the social and political upheaval that marked life in the American South during the Civil Rights Movement. The son of a minister and a teacher, at an early age Jeffrey developed a keen awareness of the social conditions affecting his family and his community, and of the struggles faced by African Americans in the fight for civil rights. He recounts as a formative moment in his childhood the occasion when he saw one of my personal and

professional mentors, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, on television for the first time, a moment that was so significant for him not only because of how inspired he was by her speech, but because of his amazement at the sight of another African American on television, which was a rare occurrence at the time.

Another part of his background that would shape his life in the years ahead was his involvement in the Head Start Program, a comprehensive childcare and development initiative for children in low-income families, funded by federal grants and matching money from local entities in communities across the country. Not only was Jeffrey a Head Start child himself, but his parents both worked with the program for a number of years while he was growing up. Furthermore, this program has remained a part of his life until the present, as he has gone on to represent my office on the local Head Start advisory board in Oakland.

After growing up in Mississippi, Nebraska, and Alabama, Jeffrey moved to Massachusetts, where he attended Brandeis University. Following his graduation, he began working in real estate, but was soon drawn to government and public service, accepting a job in the office of Senator EDWARD KENNEDY of Massachusetts, a position in which he worked on international finance, economic development and constituent services. Following his time there, he continued his work in the financial sector, serving as part of the Mortgage Bankers' Association, William Morris, and as a bank Vice President. After relocating to California to work with a startup software company, Jeffrey became increasingly involved in community development initiatives in the San Francisco Bay Area, serving on entities such as the Alameda Point Collaborative and the boards of local non-profit organizations.

Jeffrey became the District Director in my Oakland District Office in January 2004, and did an excellent job of bringing his experience in Senator KENNEDY's office as well as in the areas of finance, media, project management and staff management to bear on his service to the 9th Congressional District. Under his leadership an exceptional staff has been developed, and numerous initiatives in the areas of crime prevention, economic development, affordable housing, environmental protection, and poverty eradication have been introduced and successfully executed by my office. Of particular note has been his leadership on the Criminal Records Remedies program in my district, through which more than 2,000 non-violent criminal records have been dismissed in only 12 months, allowing thousands of formerly incarcerated individuals the opportunity to obtain employment, housing, and the chance to successfully complete their reentry into society.

Jeffrey's service has been distinguished not only by his exceptional work ethic, but also his commitment to the people of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District. Today, Jeffrey's colleagues, friends, and wife Rachel will come together to celebrate his innumerable contributions to our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting Jeffrey Thomas for his invaluable service to California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, and to wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter of his "spirit filled" life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT N.
BROADBENT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of my friend and mentor Robert N. Broadbent, a lifelong resident of Southern Nevada who dedicated his life to public service. Robert Broadbent passed away in August 2003, but he left a legacy of honor and integrity that will not be forgotten.

Robert "Bob" Broadbent was born in Ely, Nevada on June 19, 1926. From a young age, his parents, N.E. "Broddie" and Hope Broadbent, instilled in him strong family values and a commitment to serving his community. Bob's father served as mayor of Ely for 16 years, and also served on the University Board of Regents and the State Pharmacy Board. During World War II, Bob served 2 years in the Army Air Corps. When he returned home, Bob attended the California Institute of Technology and the University of Nevada, Reno, before earning his bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from Idaho State University in 1950. Upon graduation from college, Bob began working at Rexall Drug in Boulder City, Nevada, and eventually purchased the drug store.

On January 4, 1960, Boulder City was officially incorporated under the State of Nevada. The city charter called for an elected five-member council, which would then choose one of its members as mayor. Bob was elected a member of the city council, and was then appointed to be the first mayor of Boulder City. The post entitled him to a seat on the board of directors for the newly formed Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority LVCVA. Bob served on the LVCVA board for 20 years and spent 8 of those years as chairman. Bob remained on the Boulder City Council until 1968. By that time, his love for politics had prompted him to run for the Clark County Commission. He won, and served 12 years on the Commission, representing a district that included Boulder City, Henderson and North Las Vegas. Bob also served as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Water and Science under President Ronald Reagan, and was Clark County Director of Aviation from 1987-97. During his tenure as Director of Aviation, McCarran International Airport became one of the Nation's 10 busiest airports in the United States.

Though Bob served the State of Nevada with honor and distinction, his greatest legacy is his family. He and his wife Sue raised four children, Bob, Kathy, Doug and Michele, who became strong members of the southern Nevada community. They have 15 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

There are several lasting monuments that add to the legacy of Bob Broadbent, including the Las Vegas Monorail, which is named in his honor. On Tuesday, July 4, 2006, the city of Boulder City named a park for him. A bust of Bob Broadbent now stands at the corner of 5th Street and Avenue B, on the northwest corner of the newly dedicated Broadbent Park, formerly known as Central Park, or the Pool Park, as the residents of Boulder City know it.

Bob's leadership was unsurpassed and his example was one of the driving forces behind

my desire to be involved in public service. He was a valued friend who taught me a great deal about the political world and how to approach it with honor and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the people of Boulder City in paying tribute to Robert N. Broadbent on the floor of the House. His life stands as a tremendous example of leadership. He dedicated his life to enriching and improving our community and I am grateful for the legacy of service he left for the people of southern Nevada.

**FREEDOM FOR DR. JOSE LUIS
GARCÍA PANEQUE**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my Colleagues about Dr. Jose Luis García Paneque, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. García Paneque is a leader of the opposition movement in Cuba. He is a surgeon by training, and a member of the Cuban Independent Medical Association. He is also a leading independent journalist. As a director of the independent news agency Libertad and a member of the Manuel Marquez Sterling Journalists Society, Dr. García Paneque has also devoted his efforts to letting the world know the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the tyrant's heinous island wide crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Dr. García Paneque was arrested. After a sham trial, he was sentenced to 24 years in the totalitarian gulag. Let me be very clear, Dr. García Paneque is a young doctor in a dungeon because he is a supporter of freedom, democracy, and because he worked to shine the light of truth on the depravity and horror that is the Cuban tyranny.

The U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, describes the deplorable conditions in the totalitarian gulag, "Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening." Unfortunately, this is far too true for Dr. García Paneque. According to various reports, he has lost over 40 kilograms while in prison. He has had to be hospitalized multiple times while incarcerated. The latest reports are especially disturbing. Once again hospitalized because of the depraved conditions in the totalitarian gulag, he is now suffering from various life threatening maladies.

The Castro tyranny is not only murdering Dr. García Paneque because he believes in liberty, they are also attacking his family. According to a report filed by Yamilet de los Angeles Llanes Labrada, "Dr. García Paneque's four children are psychologically affected by their father's imprisonment and by the constant harassment they are forced to sustain. At least three times a week, groups cry out dictatorship slogans from outside García Paneque's home." This is the grotesque reality of living under Castro's tyranny: if you demonstrate your belief in freedom, the tyrant will lock you in a dungeon and regime thugs will mercilessly attack your family.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. García Paneque is the face of the real Cuba. Despite these gangster

tactics, heinous threats, and life threatening illness, Dr. García Paneque continues to demand human rights for the people of Cuba. He is languishing in an infernal gulag because he believes in freedom, truth, democracy, and human rights. His family is being constantly threatened because of these "dangerous" beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists and physicians like Dr. García Paneque are locked in dungeons for writing the truth. At the dawn of the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for reporting the facts. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jose Luis García Paneque and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**HONORING HEARTLE WELLS FOR
MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF EXEM-
PLARY SERVICE WITH AVERITT
EXPRESS**

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Heartle Wells for more than 25 years of exemplary service with Averitt Express.

In honor of this milestone, Wednesday, July 12, has been declared "Heartle Wells Day" by his employer.

Through these many years, Heartle has done more than pick up and deliver freight in and around Lebanon in his red Averitt Express semi. In the community, both his sense of humor and his compassion are well-known and retold by many through "Heartle stories."

Heartle's co-workers tell me he is a prankster whose jokes have grown to urban myth proportions over the years. But Heartle also has a serious side, and he always has taken the time to help customers with special situations and community members in need.

I commend Heartle for providing an example to his fellow driver sales associates and the citizens of Wilson County that extends beyond his red cab. I congratulate him on his 25 years of service, and I wish him many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO DOYLE WILLIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep heart-felt regrets for the loss of a great Texan, Doyle Willis, who dedicated 42 years of his life to Texas politics, and was fondly described as "one of the last remaining war horses in Texas," by former Fort Worth City Councilman Jim Lane.

Mr. Willis was a World War II veteran who proudly represented central Fort Worth as both a State Senator and as a House Representative between 1947 and 1997, marking his 42 year career as the second longest tenure in Texas history.

Often referred to as a legend in Texas politics, Mr. Willis, was well known for looking

after the best interests of his constituents, his fellow veterans, and in his own words, "the two classes of people I need to worry about in the Texas Legislature are the old and young people."

His accomplishments included helping establish laws that let victims of child abuse give court testimony by videotape and enabling them to avoid face-to-face confrontations with their abusers.

He earned the Bronze Star medal in World War II when he fought in the Pacific, and later became a strong voice for advocating veteran's causes.

During his tenure in the Texas Legislature, he was instrumental in drafting many of Texas' civil service laws protecting police officers and firefighters. As a Texas legislator, Mr. Willis made it a felony to steal someone's dog.

Born August 18, 1908, on a farm near the small town of Peeltown located in rural Kaufman County southeast Dallas, Mr. Willis attended the University of Texas and earned degrees in education and economics and later attended Georgetown School of Law where he earned his JD.

Since retiring from the Texas House of Representatives in 1997 and until a few months before his death, he remained an active lawyer and a stagnant participant in his civic duties.

Mr. Willis was known as a friend to every man and woman who ever wore a uniform and spent the majority of his tenure making life better for all veterans.

HONORING IRMA COLEN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irma Colen, an extraordinary philanthropist and dear friend who died last week.

Irma gave her time and energy to many needy causes in Southern California. She volunteered countless hours at scores of civic and philanthropic organizations, serving on the boards of the ACLU Foundation, the University of Judaism, and many others.

But it was health care for needy families which held a special place in her heart. When Irma was 12 years old, she had rheumatic fever and had to spend many days in a public hospital. "I know that if I were going to get better, it would be because the people taking care of me truly cared about my health," she said many times over the years. This childhood experience spurred a lifetime of support for the Venice Family Clinic, which provides free health care to homeless, needy, and uninsured members of the Venice community.

Irma worked over 30 hours a week at the Clinic, and countless other hours in the community getting others interested and involved. She was a force of nature, working tirelessly to develop the Clinic's private support base and programs. As a member of the Clinic's Board in 1999 and 2000, I observed Irma's effectiveness in raising millions.

Among Irma's most creative and best known fundraisers for the Clinic was the Venice Art Walk, which she and other volunteers organized in 1981. The event, which includes tours of artists' studios and an art auction, has at-

tracted thousands of visitors and raised millions of dollars for the Clinic.

For these and other charitable efforts, Irma earned scores of commendations and awards, including the President's Volunteer Service Award in 1992. But it wasn't the awards and recognition that motivated her. It was her commitment to caring for the less fortunate among us.

She was a generous friend, a dynamic personality, and a prodigious worker. She will be sorely missed by Lou and their family, scores of her friends, and generations of patients whom the Clinic has ably served.

TRIBUTE TO LUIS E. BARKER

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, we will celebrate the career of Luis E. Barker, Deputy Chief of the United States Border Patrol, as he retires after 35 years of service to our nation.

Chief Barker began his career in law enforcement as a military policeman in 1971. After leaving the military in 1973, he spent five years as a police officer and detective in the Jersey City, New Jersey Police Department.

In 1978, Chief Barker became a U.S. Border Patrol agent stationed in El Paso, Texas, which is the community I am proud to represent in the House of Representatives. He has been promoted consistently during the course of his career, serving in supervisory positions at the Border Patrol Academy in Glynco, Georgia and Border Patrol Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He also served as Deputy Regional Chief of the Southern Regional Office in Dallas, Texas; Assistant Chief Patrol Agent and later Deputy Chief Patrol Agent of the Del Rio Sector; Chief Patrol Agent of the Laredo Sector in 1995; and Chief Patrol Agent of the El Paso Sector in 1998. Most recently, in 2005, Chief Barker was appointed Deputy Chief of the United States Border Patrol.

Throughout his career, Chief Barker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism and true dedication to the Border Patrol, his community, and our nation. He has dealt with tough border security and immigration issues, and his expertise helped make our nation more secure. As a former Border Patrol agent and Sector Chief myself, I am confident in saying that Chief Barker serves as an excellent example for all members of the Border Patrol and law enforcement officials everywhere.

Chief Barker is also a devoted family man and community leader. He has a wife, the former Jacque Witt, a daughter, Allison, and a stepson, Michael, and I know that he made a great sacrifice leaving his home and family temporarily in El Paso to accept the position of Deputy Chief in Washington. He did so at a critical time for the Border Patrol, and the Patrol is better for it, as is the state of our nation's homeland security.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Luis E. Barker for his many years of exemplary service to America and in wishing him all the best in his retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 12

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine development effectiveness of infrastructure projects relating to multilateral development banks.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 660, to provide for the acknowledgement of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

SD-106

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine immigration issues.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine S. 3495, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Vietnam.

SD-215

10:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Frederic S. Mishkin, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Linda Mysliwy Conlin, of New Jersey, to be First Vice President, and J. Joseph Grandmaison, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the Board of Directors, both of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Geoffrey S. Bacino, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, and Edmund C. Moy, of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Mint, Department of the Treasury.

SD-538

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine strengthening participation of small businesses in Federal contracting and innovation research programs.

SR-428A

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Marc Spitzer, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold a closed briefing on intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 13

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed revisions to the particulate matter air quality standards.

SD-628

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the current situation relative to Iraq.

SH-216

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine H.R. 5254, to set schedules for the consideration of permits for refineries.

SD-366

Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric Solomon, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy.

SD-215

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine challenges facing the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, focusing on efforts to address the backlog.

SR-418

Aging
To hold hearings to examine Medicaid to retiree benefits, focusing on the impact of seniors on health care costs in the United States.

SD-106

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Business meeting to mark up H.R. 5672, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and an original bill making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

SD-106

Judiciary
Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine renewing the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act relating to legislative options after LULAC v. Perry.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine unmanned aerial systems in Alaska.

SD-562

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen S. McMillin, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 17

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provisions on hydrogen and fuel cell research and development.

SD-366

3 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christina B. Rocca, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament.

SD-419

JULY 18

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing regarding overhead imagery systems.

S-407, Capitol

Judiciary
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice.

SH-216

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine United States and India energy cooperation in the context of global energy demand, the emerging energy needs of India, and the role of nuclear power can play in meeting those needs.

SD-366

JULY 19

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to Congress.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 108-148 The Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine high performance computing.

SD-562

JULY 20

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine USDA dairy programs.

SR-328A

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Business meeting to markup H.R. 5631, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, H.R. 5385, making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and H.R. 5576, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

SD-106

POSTPONEMENTS

JULY 12

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Thompson Memorandum's effect on the right to counsel in corporate investigations.

SD-226