

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING SONIA CULVER

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sonia Culver of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Sonia is the President of Enrichment Therapies, a company that provides speech and developmental therapy services, and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Emerging Leader Award.

As a speech-language pathologist and developmental therapist, Sonia has worked closely in the community to aid children and families facing speech and language challenges as well as the problems associated with autism. Sonia contracts with school districts to provide training and case management to speech implementers. She is also the Co-Founder of Connecting the Pieces, a seminar that is designed to help educators and families learn about Autism Spectrum disorders. Sonia is also on the Regional Inter-agency Coordinating Council for First Steps and is the author of a book series to be published in 2007, focusing on eliciting speech and language from children.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Sonia Culver. Her commitment to speech therapies and enhancing the quality of life for children and families is highly appreciated. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

### ALTERNATIVE PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL THERAPIES EN- HANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill, the Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act. In this bill, Congress is overreaching its authority. The Federal Government already permits this research, through a merit based peer review process led by the scientific community. Congress should not be directing research in which we do not have expertise; we are not scientists.

### ON THE FIRST ANNUAL UW SUMMER WASHINGTON PROGRAM

#### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Wisconsin, the

Political Science Department, and the student participants on the creation and completion of the first annual UW Summer Washington Program. This invaluable opportunity was made possible by the generous support of many UW alumni.

The 15 undergraduate students were selected through a competitive application process and are interning in various offices on Capitol Hill. They are gaining experience in legislative offices, lobbying firms, the Department of Justice, and several foreign policy offices, while also participating in a Political Science course. Guest speakers and hosts, all of whom are UW alumni, have been in attendance at each class session offering priceless and practical advice to the students.

This program would not have been possible without the support of the Wisconsin alumni who have helped in funding, organizing social events, and speaking to the class. The UW Foundation, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, has worked with alumni to get this program off the ground in hopes that it will be available to future undergraduate students. The goal of this program is to establish a permanent presence for the University of Wisconsin in Washington, DC.

I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to the establishment of this exceptional opportunity. It is truly an honor for me to represent the students, the alumni, and the University of Wisconsin on this occasion, and wish them the best of luck in the successful continuation of this important program.

### TRIBUTE TO THE GRAND CANYON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

#### HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross as they celebrate 90 years of service in Arizona.

Since 1916, the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter, headquartered in Phoenix, is where the people of Arizona come together to help one another. The passionate volunteers and staff who make up the Grand Canyon Chapter provide care, comfort and lifesaving skills to millions of people in Arizona. Volunteers serve their neighbors throughout the 10 counties in the northern two-thirds of Arizona, a population of 4.5 million.

Arizonans benefit from programs that provide meaningful assistance and lift the spirit of individuals and families throughout our communities. The chapter is a leader in water safety instruction. I am particularly proud of their "Water Whiz Kids" program, which teaches backyard pool safety to children and also provides infant and child CPR training to their parents.

Within my district, the Grand Canyon Chapter is there when a disaster strikes thousands,

and when it strikes only one. In May of this year, in the wake of the Tradewinds Apartment fire in Mesa, Red Cross volunteers assisted 34 families, served 400 meals, and distributed 125 comfort kits. Another local emergency response was the Cave Creek Complex Fire last year where 36 Red Cross volunteers opened a shelter and provided 23 residents with meals and comfort kits.

The American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter has also played an instrumental role in assisting after national disasters outside Arizona, including Hurricane Katrina. Last year, over 100 Red Cross volunteers from Arizona deployed to the gulf coast to help with the disaster response. The Grand Canyon Chapter also operated a national call center for disaster victims throughout the country. Impressively, with only 30 hours advance notice, the Chapter organized "Operation Good Neighbor Shelter" at Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, helping more than 1,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees in our State last year. These evacuees were displaced and relocated from the gulf coast, suddenly finding themselves hundreds of miles from their homes, yet upon their arrival, they were the recipients of the warm "compassion in action" that exemplifies the Red Cross volunteer and the spirit of Arizonans: good neighbors helping new neighbors during drastic times.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me to honor and recognize the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter on its 90th birthday. With congratulations and gratitude for the excellent work they do to enrich our lives, I am pleased to recognize their service to our communities throughout the great State of Arizona.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcalls Nos. 394–396, I was not present in the House due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on July 24, 2006, during rollcall votes Nos. 394, 395 and 396 during the second session of the 109th Congress.

Rollcall vote No. 394 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1496.

Rollcall vote No. 395 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, S. 203.

• 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.

Rollcall vote No. 396 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5534.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted "yes" on all of these rollcall votes.

IN SUPPORT OF RURAL VETERANS  
HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, since the founding of our Nation, rural Americans have always answered the call to service in times of war. One in three of the patients seen at the Department of Veterans Affairs lives in a rural community. Veterans who live in rural settings are often older and have more physical and mental health diseases as compared to veterans who live in suburban or urban settings. According to the 2005 Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Rural Health*, the smaller, poorer, and more isolated a rural community is, the more difficult it is to ensure the availability of high-quality health services. With some 44 percent of current military recruits coming from rural areas, we must help VA focus on meeting the pressing health care needs of rural veterans.

I have introduced H.R. 5524, the Rural Veterans Health Care Act of 2006, to take a comprehensive and practical approach towards improving care for our rural veterans by increasing community based facilities and outreach, encouraging the training and recruitment of health care professionals, focusing on research to develop innovative solutions to the challenges of delivering rural health care, and developing the information technology infrastructure we need to enhance health care services in rural areas.

Rural America has always answered the call to service. We should do everything we can to ensure that rural veterans have the same reasonable access to the high quality care available through the VA as veterans in suburban and urban areas. I urge my colleagues to support rural veterans and pass H.R. 5524.

Mr. Speaker I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter of support for H.R. 5524, the Rural Veterans Health Care Act of 2006, from the National Rural Health Association.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION,  
*Kansas City, MO, July 17, 2006.*  
Hon. MICHAEL MICHAUD,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MICHAUD: On behalf of the National Rural Health Association, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 5524, the "Rural Veterans Health Care Act of 2006."

The NRHA is a national nonprofit, non-partisan, membership organization with approximately 10,000 members that provides leadership on rural health issues. The Association's mission is to improve the health of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. The NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all

of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

The NRHA members are keenly aware of the disproportionate rates at which rural people serve in the military and the issues our rural veterans face in obtaining health and mental health care in rural communities. We are pleased to see so many provisions in this legislation to address these concerns. In particular, the provisions which call for expansion of and improved quality of services provided by Vet Centers, Outreach Health Centers, and CBOCs in rural areas. These services represent approaches that greatly increase access to quality care for these vets. Vet Centers, as is their role, will also educate returning rural veterans to their benefits and the services they have earned.

The bill also addresses the long term care needs of rural vets, the use of an electronic medical record system to enhance patient safety and improve quality of care, takes advantage of the groundbreaking IOM report on the future of rural health care recommendations, and provides a provision for the training of health care professionals in rural facilities serving veterans. All of these provisions are included in NRHA's support. The NRHA is especially supportive of the call for a national Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans, and offer up any assistance we might make in recommending members for this committee should the legislation be successful. In addition, we are pleased that the legislation increases the number of rural rotations for medical residents training at the VA and takes steps to enhance the education, training, retention, and recruitment of health professionals in rural areas. Research has shown that rural rotations are effective in increasing the number of medical personnel that choose to practice in rural areas.

The NRHA is supportive and involved in the dissemination of research and resources developed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Rural Research Centers, therefore, we support the provisions in the bill which would designate at least four centers as the location for research targeted at defining rural veteran health and mental health care needs, and chronic disease management. NRHA is keenly aware of the limited research on rural veterans and their families, and this provision will begin to address the dearth of research in this area.

The NRHA maintains a Minority and Multicultural committee within our organization and develops many policy statements regarding the unique needs of rural minority groups and women. We are pleased to see the specific inclusion of Native American, Native Hawaiian and Native Alaskan veterans in this legislation. This legislation would expand VA's health care presence in these rural and remote communities. The NRHA also hopes that special consideration will also be given to the unprecedented number of African American women and all women serving at the highest rates ever seen in our country and the special needs that they will bring into the VA system in just a few short years.

The NRHA developed the first national policy paper as a non-Veteran Service Organization on rural veterans in 2003-2004, and we are pleased to see some of the recommendations called for in our policy paper addressed in this legislation.

For these many reasons, the NRHA strongly supports your efforts to urge Congress to enact the "Rural Veterans Health Care Act

of 2006." Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SEXTON,  
*President.*

RECOGNIZING SUSAN DUDLEY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Susan Dudley of Saint Joseph, Missouri. For the past 11 years she has served as the executive secretary to the president of Commerce Bank and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in Support Services.

As the executive secretary to the president, Susan is often looked to for guidance and direction. She is considered to be an outstanding member of the local Commerce Bank, as a result of her commitment to the company, staff, customers, and community. She is always positive and helpful, never refusing any task asked of her. In the community, she delivers "Meals on Wheels" through Inter-Serv. She also serves as a board member at Vatterott College and is a past president of her P.E.O. Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Susan Dudley. She serves as an inspiration to the community and sets the mark of excellence that encourages others. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, and the override of the President's veto of this monumental commitment to historic scientific research.

Yet again, the administration turned its back on science and chose politics.

Embryonic stem cell research will go on, with or without the United States. Diabetes, Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's Disease will be cured, with or without the United States.

The stem cells in an embryo are special tissue. We should not create them with the intent to terminate them later. But here, embryos were created with the intent to bring more children in to the world, and once a baby is born many fertilized eggs are not implanted. The only alternate fate for them now is disposal.

Let us not waste potential human life, let us not waste these fertilized eggs by destroying them. Let us use them to save human lives through stem cell research.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROSEMARY  
GARFOOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library in Cross Plains, Wisconsin, on the grand opening of its brand new facility. For nearly 40 years the library has been an impressive tribute to the people of Cross Plains.

The public library serves as the cornerstone of democracy, fostering intellectual freedom and making available to all citizens an extensive information network. In a local setting, citizens have access to global resources of information. The public library is critically important in improving the community by providing access to higher learning. It is certainly a requirement for a cultivated democratic society.

The public library allows citizens to perform the civic duties placed upon them in our democratic nation. It not only provides free access to worldwide information, but is a place where residents can obtain information about their community. It also serves as a place where Internet access, tax forms, and voter registration forms are provided. The role of the public library is essential in supporting a democratic state. The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library has gone beyond its civic duty in providing these services for the public.

To provide the public with a new library facility, the people of Cross Plains were committed to this important project since 2002. I am proud to recognize the efforts of a community that created a dream and followed through to success. I join the residents of Cross Plains in celebrating the grand opening of the newly expanded and renovated Rosemary Garfoot Public Library and wish them the best for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that, due to my attendance at the swearing in ceremony of New Jersey Commissioner of Labor David Socolow, I missed three votes on July 24, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on S. 1496 (Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005), "yea" on S. 203 (National Heritage Areas Act of 2005) and "yea" on H.R. 5534 (To establish a grant program whereby moneys collected from violations of the corporate average fuel economy program are used to expand infrastructure necessary to increase the availability of alternative fuels).

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND  
DR. LEROY JOHNSON, PASTOR,  
MISSIONARY TEMPLE C.M.E.  
CHURCH

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize City of Fairfield resident Dr. (Colonel) Leroy Johnson, Pastor, for his dedication and commitment to his church and community.

Dr. Johnson, who was licensed to preach in 1952, has served the Missionary Temple C.M.E. Church since 1989. Prior to joining the C.M.E. Church, Dr. Johnson was president of Miles College, which has a proud history of producing teachers, preachers, community leaders and politicians, in Birmingham, AL.

In 1963, Dr. Johnson entered the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps where he held various assignments which included pastoring the largest Protestant military/civilian congregation in Western Europe.

During his pastorate in Kaiserslautern, West Germany, the gospel singers and services that exist on all American military posts, bases, stations, and ships today were created.

He was the first African American to receive a line officer's commission under the Navy Reserve Officer Candidate Program and had the distinction of being a member of the Navy's first atomic bomb testing team in the South Pacific Marshall Islands.

After serving in the U.S. Army and Navy during a career that included world conflicts such as the Korean War and Vietnam, Dr. Johnson retired with the rank of Colonel.

Included amongst his 25 military awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Navy Unit Citation.

Dr. Johnson holds a Ph.D. from Kansas State University and has attained three masters degrees from Chapman University.

As the officers and members of Missionary Temple C.M.E. Church pay tribute to Dr. Johnson during the "This is your Life" Celebration, I wish Dr. Johnson, his wife, Simmie Mae, and daughter, Leana, many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE  
FIRST CLASS JUSTIN RAY DAVIS

**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the heartfelt condolences of a grateful nation and to honor the life of PFC Justin Ray Davis of Gaithersburg, MD. PFC Justin Davis was killed on June 25 near the village of Kandalay, located in the Kunar Province in Afghanistan, from wounds sustained during combat operations as part of Operation Mountain Thrust. PFC Justin Davis, 19, was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army. A native of Gaithersburg, MD, Private First Class Davis entered the Army in June 2005 and trained at Fort Benning, GA, to be

an infantryman. His strong patriotism and desire to defend our freedoms led him to join the military immediately after graduating from Magruder High School in May, 2005, where he was active in the Junior ROTC and a starter on the varsity football team. Private First Class Davis was a loving son and leaves behind his mother, Paula Davis, and father, Dennis Johnson. May God bless them and comfort them during this very difficult time.

We owe this brave soldier and his family a tremendous debt of gratitude for his selfless service and sacrifice. Our country could not maintain its freedom and security without heroes like Private First Class Davis. He made the ultimate sacrifice. Americans, as well as Afghans, owe their liberty to Private First Class Davis and his fallen comrades. Private First Class Davis was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, for his heroism and service to his country, please join me in honoring the life of PFC Justin Ray Davis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2006, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather prohibiting my travel.

On rollcall vote Nos. 394, 395, and 396, if present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING DR. NORMA  
BAGNALL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Norma Bagnall of Saint Joseph, MO. Dr. Bagnall retired from teaching in 1996, she has served the community ever since and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Bagnall came to Missouri after obtaining a bachelors, masters, and doctorate degree from Texas A&M University. She joined the staff of Missouri Western State University in Saint Joseph, MO, in the early 1980's as an assistant professor of English and later gained a full professorship. She retired from Missouri Western in 1996 and began a long list of service to the community.

Norma has been a champion of literacy in the community. She has led the Runcie Club book study group for the past 6 years, and established the Hayes Bagnall Literacy Scholarship at Missouri Western and the Writer's Workshop at the Joyce Raye Patterson Senior Center. Then, during the summer of 2005, she developed a community class to teach conversational Spanish. That program became so successful that it had to be adopted by Inter-Serv, in order to accommodate the 110 students and additional 115 people on a waiting list.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Dr. Norma Bagnall. In nearly three decades in northwest Missouri, Norma has come to be one of the most outstanding members of our community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

THE MOSES AND AARON  
FOUNDATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a worthy organization, one committed to special children and their families. The Moses and Aaron Foundation's significant and enduring efforts under the direction of the president, Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun, and executive vice president, Yehuda Kaploun, deserve the highest praise, as do the philanthropists who have given of themselves to fulfill its mission.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation Special Fund for Children is an all volunteer organization and is dedicated to assisting children with disabilities and their families with a wide range of programs including social, physical, and financial, as well as counseling and guidance.

It also provides scholarship funding to educational institutions, collects, purchases, and distributes clothing for children in need and remembers them with presents at holiday time or when hospitalized.

In cooperation with Bally Total Fitness Centers, the Moses and Aaron Foundation has been able to establish physical fitness and therapy centers. The foundation has arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions as well to help improve the conditions of disabled children.

On Saturday night, August 5, 2006, at the Sullivan County Community College in Loch Sheldrake, NY, the Moses and Aaron Foundation will sponsor its 10th Summer "Chazak—Strength" concert honoring and paying tribute to special and outstanding children. This concert is presented under the honorary chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel and is produced by STB Jewish Music Productions. The guests of honor will be the special and outstanding children, many of whom will perform with the entertainers on stage. More than 40 organizations and schools serving the needs of physically and mentally disabled children will be represented at this event.

The Chazak Concert and the Moses and Aaron Foundation's other programs demonstrate the caring and compassionate concern for the quality and dignity of life of others and merit the appreciation of all those who have benefited from its services.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization which exemplifies the generosity of spirit in American society.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
THE VIRGINIA MARTI COLLEGE  
OF ART AND DESIGN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of the Virginia Marti College of Art and Design as they celebrate 40 years of devotion to artistic exploration and advanced academics.

Located in the cultural hub of Lakewood, Ohio, the Virginia Marti College was founded in 1966 by visionary Virginia Marti Veith to stimulate innovation in the field of art and design. The culturally diverse campus engages students on an individual level to develop their unique talents and creativity, making Virginia Marti an inspirational learning environment. For 40 years students from around the world have met the rigorous academic challenges of Virginia Marti College with determined passion and graduated on to successful careers, creating vibrant ripples throughout the fashion world.

In the early 1990s, inspired by a trip she made with her husband Herb to Africa, Virginia Veith founded Mission to the Fatherless, a nonprofit operating in Kenya to provide orphaned children with food, healthcare, education, and a loving home. The organization is supported by proceeds from Virginia Marti Designer Fabrics store, located on the college campus. Due to the devastation of diseases like HIV/AIDS, more than a million children are orphaned in Kenya alone, a number that grows from day to day. Mission to the Fatherless is dedicated not only to providing children with basic needs but nourishing their spiritual and moral development to inspire principled civic engagement. All of the proceeds from Virginia Marti College's 40th anniversary black-tie celebration will go directly to Mission to the Fatherless, with the hopes of building a third orphanage in Kenya.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Virginia Marti College of Art and Design as it celebrates 40 years of excellence in design with a noble fundraiser for Mission to the Fatherless, rescuing children from a life of poverty, starvation, and violence.

PROVIDING GRANTS TO EXPAND  
INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY  
TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF  
ALTERNATIVE FUELS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 5534, the E85 Kick-Start Bill. I am a proud co-sponsor of this bill and I applaud my good friend and colleague, Congressman MIKE ROGERS, for bringing this bill to the floor and helping the U.S. in the fight for energy independence.

High energy prices are a significant threat to our long-term economic well-being and we need to aggressively pursue a goal of energy

independence for our Nation. This independence can only be achieved through greater domestic production of energy conservation and the use of alternative energy sources. Unfortunately, there are no quick fixes to the energy crisis that is before our country. It will take years to build new refineries and mass transit systems. But right now, there are 6 million vehicles on the road that can use E85, an alternative blend of fuel using 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. What we are missing is a distribution network to make this gasoline alternative feasible and this legislation seeks to double that network, which is critical to expanding the use of alternative fuels.

Earlier in the year, I introduced the E85 Investment Act, which would increase the tax credit from 30 percent to 75 percent, up to \$30,000, for E85 tanks and pumps.

This legislation embraces the goal of increasing alternative fuel infrastructure. Specifically, this bill creates a federal "Fuel Economy Fund" by diverting the corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE) penalties currently paid by automakers from the general treasury to the "Fuel Economy Fund." The legislation also calls for up to a \$30,000 grant to station owners who invest in alternative fuel pumps and fuel stations, including E85 infrastructure.

I want to thank MIKE ROGERS for being a leader in this effort to help bring energy independence to our Nation. This legislation will help our Nation truly invest in alternative fuels and give consumers a choice when they go to the pump. I look forward to continuing to work with you to identify other ways we can help strengthen our Nation's economy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the underlying bill.

RECOGNIZING CUTLER DAWSON,  
NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEM-  
BER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIA-  
TION OF FEDERAL CREDIT  
UNIONS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cutler Dawson, a constituent of mine, on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Mr. Dawson is the president and CEO of Navy Federal Credit Union, located in Merrifield, Virginia.

Mr. Dawson only recently took over at Navy Federal Credit Union after a 35-year career in the Navy, retiring as Vice Admiral. Mr. Dawson held numerous commands, including service as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations and Chief of Legislative Affairs. While on active duty, Mr. Dawson also served as a Navy Federal volunteer official on the Supervisory and Credit Committees, and as a board director. Mr. Dawson has been very active since taking over at Navy Federal Credit Union, testifying before Congress twice and joining the Board of the Consumer Federation of America.

Mr. Dawson and Navy Federal Credit Union are working hard to ensure that the Nation's sailors have access to high quality, low cost financial services wherever they may be deployed. Such service is the hallmark of the

credit union movement, and Navy Federal Credit Union has exemplified that philosophy for decades. I wish Mr. Dawson good luck in his new role as a member of the NAFCU board of directors.

RECOGNIZING NATHANIAL CALEB HORN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathaniel Caleb Horn, 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 204, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend sincere congratulations to my friend Tim Friedman upon his retirement from the Democratic Cloakroom. Tim, a Lackawanna, NY native, has dedicated 30 years of his life to service in the House of Representatives.

Tim began his career in Washington in 1976 in the House of Representatives under Congressman Dan Rostenkowski. Shortly after, he worked under Doorkeeper James T. Molloy as a doorkeeper and in 1982 transferred to the House Sergeant at Arms. In 1985, Tim was appointed to the House Democratic Cloakroom as Assistant Manager. For over 20 years, Tim has been a constant presence in the Cloakroom, and has tirelessly worked on behalf of House Democrats.

The Democratic Cloakroom has been like a home away from home for me over these past 19 months. It's been an honor and pleasure to have Buffalo guys in the Cloakroom—people like Tim Friedman and Bob Fischer, who have been terrific public servants in the House, and who have shown me the ropes and ways of the House.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize Tim Friedman for his many years of service and for his commitment to Democrats, and the House of Representatives. I wish Tim and his wife Colleen many years of continued health and happiness.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, somehow, I thought Tim and I would grow old together. For 30 years, he has always been there for us: friendly, informed, endlessly patient with our endless questions, and always ready with his wry smile.

There will be a void now in the cloakroom, a physical gap that we all will feel. But more: there will be a void in our Caucus, where Tim has provided such competent guidance, continuity and wisdom.

Godspeed, Tim. You have made a big difference here.

TRIBUTE TO KEN WRINKLE OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished veteran and true friend to the men and women who served in our armed forces. Ken Wrinkle, a man who I have known and worked with for many years, passed away just last week. Beloved by those whose lives he touched, Ken's memory will live on with the veterans of Hernando County, FL.

Born in Pontiac, MI, in 1950, Ken and his family moved to Miami, FL, in 1952. Following his high school graduation and time spent in college, Ken enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1969.

A Vietnam combat veteran, Ken was awarded the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon for wounds received in battle. Evacuated to the United States, Ken recovered from his injuries and received a medical discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps.

Continuing his studies at Michigan State University, Ken graduated from college in 1974. While in pursuit of his degree, Ken met and married his wife Linda. Following graduation, Ken volunteered to re-enter the U.S. Marines Corps through the Officer Candidate Program and was commissioned an Infantry Lieutenant. Ken went on to successfully complete 20 years of service, retiring as a Major on January 1, 1993.

Eventually settling with his family in Spring Hill, FL, in May 1993, Ken, a disabled veteran, was named the Hernando County Veterans Services Officer and Director. Following 12 years of distinguished service to the veteran community, illness forced him to retire in July 2005.

As Director of Veterans' Services, Ken was able to accomplish several of his goals for the region, including starting a network to provide transportation for veterans to the Tampa VA hospital. He also supported the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Brooksville, a facility that today serves over 23,000 veterans annually.

Ken is survived by his wife of 33 years, Linda, a teacher at Powell Middle School, and

his son, John, a U.S. Air Force veteran currently attending college.

Mr. Speaker, the volunteer spirit of men like Ken Wrinkle shines through in the legacy he has left behind in Hernando County. Unfortunately, one less star will be shining in our local veteran community. From now on, area veterans must look up to the heavens to see Ken's light shining down on them from above. I speak for many when I say that Ken Wrinkle will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING TRENT KENDALL GERMAN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trent Kendall German 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 9, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN LAYSON

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor State Representative Allen Layson on the occasion of his retirement from the Alabama House of Representatives. Allen is a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family and service to one's country. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize his many accomplishments.

Allen was born on December 16, 1931 in Eatonton, Georgia. He graduated from Eatonton High School in 1947. He entered the United States Army Reserves in 1948 and volunteered for active duty service in 1951 and was discharged in 1953. Immediately after leaving the Army, Allen attended the University of Georgia and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry in just three years, graduating in 1956.

Allen and his family moved to Pickens County in 1969, and he soon demonstrated his outstanding leadership to the Reform community. He served as president of the Reform Rotary Club, is the founder of the Reform Area Public Library, is a member of the American Legion, a member of the Pickens County Mental Health Association, a Master Mason, and a member of the Boy Scout Troop Committee.

First elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1986, Allen has served the Sixty-First district with distinction for the past twenty years. During his tenure he was a strong proponent of our Second Amendment rights and worked hard to protect the family and our religious liberties. A social and fiscal conservative, he voted consistently to ensure that Alabama provided an economic atmosphere in which business and industry could grow and prosper.

Allen is a true friend of the volunteer fire fighter. Through his efforts, a three mil revenue tax was enacted in 1999, and amended in 2004, to provide badly needed funding to the volunteer fire departments in Pickens County. This funding allows the volunteer fire departments to purchase equipment, provide training and cover operating costs. This has greatly enhanced their firefighting capabilities, thus reducing insurance rates and thereby saving money for Alabama families.

He served as a Commissioner on the Alabama Forestry Commission from 1979 to 1983, served as president of the Alabama Division for the Society of American Foresters, is a Trustee of the Alabama Forest Products Workman's Compensation Fund, served as president and is a lifetime member of the Alabama Wildlife Federation, is a member of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, a member of the Sierra Club and a member of sixteen volunteer fire departments. Also, Allen has served on the board of directors for the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority since his appointment by Governor Guy Hunt in 1991.

He has been distinguished as the recipient of the Governor's Conservationist of the Year Award in Forestry in 1982, the Kelly Mosley Environmental Award in 1985 and the APA Southwestern United States Technical Writing Award in 1981.

Of all of Allen's accomplishments, perhaps his greatest achievement was convincing the former JoAnn Kimberly to marry him. They were married on September 15, 1949 and are the proud parents of five children; Butch, Allen, Jr., Kim, James and Michael. Allen and JoAnn are faithful members of Reform First United Methodist Church where Allen has served as a Lay Leader and Lay Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor State Representative Allen Layson for his many achievements and his enduring impact on his country, state, community, friends and family. He is a man of great dignity and character who takes pride in the accomplishments of those he has helped over the years. Allen is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in his retirement.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE VETERANS HOMES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 347, I am pleased to support this resolution hon-

oring the work of the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the 119 homes across the country that honor our nation's heroes.

I am proud to work on closely with the State Veterans Home in Paramus, New Jersey. This excellent facility is run by caring individuals who work hard each day to see that our veterans are given the care that they earned sacrificing for our nation. Veterans Affairs Secretary Nicholson recently had the opportunity to tour the facility with me and see the tremendous effort that Doris Neibert, director of the home, and all the nurses and staff have put into caring for veterans in the final stages of life's journey.

Throughout the 20th Century and now into the 21st, the American soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine has been a force for good in this world. Working together, they have kept our nation safe from the threats of fascism, communism, and now terrorism. We owe them all a great debt of gratitude and the best care we can provide.

Our nation has a rich history of promoting freedom and spreading democracy, a history that was made possible by countless individuals who served in our armed forces. We remember all who contributed as well as those that stand ready to serve the cause of freedom today. I am proud to represent so many selfless and brave heroes and to honor those who work for their welfare.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE SAFE COMMISSION

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced legislation in the House of Representatives aimed at addressing the looming financial crisis facing the Nation, H.R. 5552—the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act. The bill would establish a national bipartisan commission that will put everything—entitlement spending as well as all other Federal programs and our Nation's tax policies—on the table and require Congress to vote up or down on its recommendations in their entirety, similar to the process set in 1988 to close military bases. Mandating congressional action on the panel's recommendations is what differentiates this commission from previous ones.

Support for the bill is coming from both sides of the aisle. I submit for the Record a recent analysis by the Heritage Foundation; a letter of support from the Concord Coalition; a letter from Douglas Holt-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, and letters from several former Members.

I also am pleased to submit today the names of 20 of my colleagues who are co-sponsoring the SAFE Commission measure and urge the remainder of my colleagues to join as well. This legislation will be good for the future of America.

THE CONCORD COALITION,  
*Arlington, VA, June 28, 2006.*

Hon. FRANK WOLF,  
*House of Representatives*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. WOLF: On behalf of The Concord Coalition, I am writing to express our deep

appreciation for your leadership in sponsoring the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Act, which would establish a bipartisan commission to recommend legislation addressing our nation's unsustainable long-term fiscal outlook.

We strongly agree with you that the need for serious action is not just an economic imperative but a moral one as well. We also share your view that partisan divisions in Washington have become so wide that a commission may now be the only way forward on this issue. By establishing a fiscal policy commission with a broad mandate, meaningful public engagement, and the ability to consider all policy options, your legislation represents a very constructive step toward bringing about consensus solutions.

The demographic and fiscal challenges facing the budget in the years ahead are well known. Analysts of diverse ideological perspectives and nonpartisan officials at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) have all warned that current fiscal policy is unsustainable over the long-term.

What is needed now is a clear commitment to address these issues in a straightforward, generationally equitable and bipartisan manner. Achieving consensus around the hard choices that must eventually be made will require open minds and bipartisan cooperation. Your legislation would establish a process to do just that.

Recently, The Concord Coalition organized a forum with experts from across the political spectrum to discuss the possibility of establishing a bipartisan commission to deal with our long-term fiscal outlook. Three conclusions from the forum stand out:

The commission must have meaningful participation and input from a broad range of views. Bipartisan support is essential to enacting and maintaining policies that will put the budget on a fiscally sustainable course.

The commission should have a broad mandate with no limitations on what policy options the commission can consider or preconditions—in a proposal. Everything must be on the table, including revenues as well as entitlements and other spending.

The commission should engage the public in a dialogue about the long-term fiscal challenges and the tradeoffs that will be necessary to bring about a more secure and sustainable economic future.

The Concord Coalition commends your proposal because it recognizes each of these conclusions. The SAFE Act would establish a bipartisan commission of experts and legislators appointed by the President and Congressional leaders of both parties. The Commission would be directed to hold hearings across the country and incorporate the input from the public in its report. This is a very welcome provision. The public should be treated as if it were, in effect, a member of the commission. Doing so will enhance the commission's credibility and help build acceptance for its recommendations. Our experience hosting meetings around the nation on this issue has demonstrated that when the American people are armed with the facts and given the opportunity for honest dialogue, they are willing to set priorities and make the hard choices that often are not made in Washington.

Most importantly, the Commission would be allowed to consider all policy options to address the imbalance between long-term spending commitments and projected revenues, including reforms of entitlement programs and tax laws. In our view, this is an essential prerequisite for attracting well-respected individuals to serve on the commission and for finding solutions that are both substantive and politically viable.

We particularly commend you for your willingness to consider constructive suggestions for changes to achieve broader bipartisan support and increase the prospect that the commission will produce a balanced proposal that can be enacted into law. In that regard, we would suggest a few changes that we believe would strengthen the bill and help ensure the commission receives the bipartisan support essential to its success.

We believe the commission would have greater credibility if the appointees were more evenly divided between parties, potentially with some commission members appointed jointly or as a result of bipartisan consultation. Further, we would suggest that the commission have bipartisan co-chairs. We would also encourage you to consider a more expansive legislative process, which would allow for greater debate of policy tradeoffs by allowing the consideration of budget neutral amendments. Those who oppose the priorities and tradeoffs recommended by the commission should be challenged to say what they would do instead and given the opportunity to put forward alternative policies to address the problem.

A commission isn't a silver bullet that will solve our fiscal problems by itself. It will still take action by Members of Congress and the administration to adopt the tough choices. But a commission with credibility and bipartisan support could provide the leadership necessary to ensure that these issues receive the attention and serious consideration they deserve.

You deserve great credit for your willingness to undertake the difficult but absolutely essential task of focusing attention on the tough choices our nation faces. The Concord Coalition stands ready to assist in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. BIXBY,  
*Executive Director.*

THE WOLF SAFE COMMISSION ACT: A CHANCE  
TO GET THE BUDGET BACK ON TRACK

(By Stuart Butler)

The recent Mid-Session Review by the Office of Management and Budget underscores the facts that sensible tax reform stimulates the economy and that faster growth swells revenue to the government as a byproduct of new jobs and extra income for Americans. The review also confirms the overall, disturbing long-term budget picture indicated in the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) longterm forecast. Under current law, both taxes and spending will rise rapidly during future decades towards European levels, with an ever-growing government taking a larger and larger proportion of the nation's income and threatening America's future economic growth. Decisive action is needed.

But faced with this threat, Washington is paralyzed. Rather than seriously tackling the tsunami of entitlement spending that will hit the budget after the baby boomers begin to retire, Congress actually made the situation far worse by enacting the huge Medicare prescription drug benefit. And while the Bush tax reforms have significantly helped in the short term, even if made permanent they would shave only about one percentage point from the future growth in taxes. Absent any additional reforms, the CBO forecasts that, with the Bush tax cuts extended, federal taxes will top 20 percent of GDP by about 2025 and approach 23 percent of GDP by 2045. The historical average, and today's level, is just over 18 percent of GDP.

With Congress polarized and paralyzed, some Members of Congress, along with President Bush, are exploring the idea of a bipartisan commission as a way to break away

from the path of rapidly rising spending and taxes. President Bush pressed for an entitlements commission in his State of the Union address. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) has sponsored legislation (5. 3521) that includes a commission to review the long-term solvency of Social Security and Medicare. Meanwhile, Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) has crafted a commission bill ("The SAFE Commission Act," H.R. 5552) specifically intended to win bipartisan support for bold action to secure the country's fiscal and economic future. Senator George Voinovich (R-OH) has introduced that bill in the Senate (S. 3491).

Commissions can help break a political logjam. They can also become vehicles for action that achieves a short-term political fix and yet does little in the long term or even makes things worse. So the political dynamics and mandate of a commission are critical. Fortunately, the Wolf commission bill recognizes these facts of political life and offers real hope for sensible action. A reason for this is that in its instructions to the commission, the bill wisely combines reform with fiscal changes in a manner that could achieve a breakthrough.

The core of the fiscal problem is the sharp projected rise in future entitlement spending, especially spending on programs for middle-class retirees. Contrary to many people's perception, taxes are not falling—as noted, taxes are projected to rise steadily to record levels under current law, in real terms and as a percentage of GDP. Still, in today's political deadlock many lawmakers maintain that tax revenue must be part of the equation if they are to have the political "cover" to accept curbs on popular entitlements.

But for good reasons, conservatives strongly resist the idea of raising taxes. For one thing, taxes are not the problem—spending is. Moreover, raising tax rates or instituting new taxes would threaten economic growth, compounding the economic harm associated with government spending. Further, raising taxes likely would reduce the pressure on Congress to curb spending or, worse still, encourage lawmakers increase their spending promises.

The Wolf bill seeks a solution to this political equation. It creates a bipartisan commission intended to address the "unsustainable imbalance" between federal commitments and revenues while increasing national savings and making the budget process give greater emphasis to long-term fiscal issues. While the commission could consider a range of approaches, the bill places emphasis on two: reforms that would limit the growth of entitlements while strengthening the safety net and tax reforms that would make the tax system more economically efficient and improve economic growth. The commission would hold public hearings around the country to discuss the long-term fiscal problem, and its recommendations would receive "fast-track" consideration by Congress.

By combining a slowdown in entitlement spending with reforms to strengthen assistance to the needy, a commission proposal could win support of liberals and others who worry that surging middle-class retiree spending in the future will crowd out safety net spending. And by placing an emphasis on pro-growth tax reform, a commission proposal could also lead to some additional revenues not by raising taxes but thanks instead to faster economic growth—just as the Bush tax reforms produced the recent sharp increase in federal revenues. Combining these features in a commission proposal could lead to a package that conservatives, liberals, and moderates all believe would advance their agendas—a necessary result for

an economically sound agreement to succeed in a polarized Congress.

Some might argue that appointing a commission to address the long-term fiscal situation is an abrogation of responsibility by Congress. In an obvious sense, it is. But the Wolf bill also shows that lawmakers recognize that America's budgeting system is broken and in the current environment cannot lead to a responsible long-term federal budget. Representative Wolf's commission proposal seeks to alter those destructive dynamics in order to secure a sound economy for future generations.

Stuart M. Butler, Ph.D., is Vice President for Domestic and Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, July 13, 2006.

Congressman FRANK R. WOLF,  
Cannon House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I am writing regarding your proposed SAFE Commission. I applaud your desire to address the nation's long-term fiscal problems and thank you for your efforts.

The work of the proposed commission is central to the continued international competitiveness of the United States and the standard of living of future generations. The future growth of mandatory spending is among the greatest of economic threats, and it is entirely self-inflicted. It is imperative that our nation restructure its approach to old-age income, health insurance, and long-term care, and it is better to do it sooner than later.

I have taken the liberty of attaching a speech that I gave a while back. The final two sections make these points in greater detail.

Best of luck in your efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN.

THE URBAN INSTITUTE,  
Washington, DC, June 22, 2006.

Representative FRANK WOLF,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: In response to your letter of June 16, I strongly support your bill to establish a national bipartisan commission on entitlement spending and tax policy. Although many are cynical about the prospects for the success of any commission, I think that you are right that the current political climate is not conducive to passing constructive legislation without some prodding from the outside.

I also believe that the American public is not ready to accept the sacrifices necessary to avoid a crisis, because the dire nature of the situation has not been well communicated by policy makers. Therefore, I particularly commend your idea of holding town meetings across the country and I would hope that the commission has a large budget for this purpose, because I believe that we need lots of meetings. Ideally, the commission would first produce a white paper that could be discussed at the meetings. It would outline the problem in the most objective way possible and describe the major options for solving it.

It is interesting to note that Canada had such meetings prior to a significant reform of their social security system and Canadian officials will tell you that they were extremely helpful in finding a solution. Similarly, Britain is in the midst of reforming their public pension system and they used large focus groups to test their options. I would prefer a town meeting to a focus group format, but however one proceeds, the involvement of the public is absolutely crucial.

I wish you success in getting your idea enacted and would be willing to help in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

RUDOLPH G. PENNER.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL  
CENTER FOR SCHOLARS,  
Washington, DC, July 7, 2006.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: Thank you for sending along your excellent proposal to establish a national bipartisan commission on America's looming fiscal crisis. I agree that we must hastily address the very grave financial challenges before our nation. You have laid out a thoughtful and effective way forward. In particular, it is important to put everything on the table—entitlement spending, federal programs, and tax policy. Mandating congressional action would ensure that a prospective commission does not issue a report that gathers dust on a shelf.

On another note, the Iraq Study Group continues to make excellent progress, and I once again thank you for your leadership and support of our efforts.

With best wishes,  
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON.

MANATT JONES GLOBAL STRATEGIES,  
Washington, DC, June 26, 2006.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you for your letter and for sending me a copy of your legislation, H.R. 5552. I can't speak highly enough in commending you for leading this much needed effort and for the comprehensiveness of your proposal.

As a former House Budget Committee Chairman who subsequently headed the American Stock Exchange among other business activities since leaving the Congress, I have been appalled and discouraged by the recklessness and disregard of our government's fiscal policy. These unconscious able deficits and mounting federal debt load financed primarily by foreigners are an economic time bomb waiting to explode. If I were managing a private company this irresponsibly, the shareholders should demand my resignation.

We hear much talk about our national security and energy security. But to put our economic security so much in the hands of foreign interests is gambling at its worst.

In addition to the economic dangers, this is also a moral issue in that our generation is saddling our children and grand-children with the responsibility for paying off our profligacy. That can only reduce the standard of living of future generations. How can we justify such immorality.

I am so proud that you are stepping forward to try to pass legislation with teeth to force both the Congress and the Executive Branch to make hard choices to get our fiscal house on a path to responsibility. I hope that you will make this a bi-partisan effort. I will be pleased to support you in every way I can and to urge my fellow Democrats to join you in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. JONES.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL GILBERT  
OAS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK  
OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Gilbert Oas 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 9, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, due to a mechanical failure with my voting card, my vote in favor of H. Res. 921 was not recorded (rollcall vote No. 391).

I strongly support the state of Israel, and am in full support of its actions to defend itself against the attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah. Both of these terrorist organizations are comprised of terrorist thugs and must be rooted out in order for peace to be achieved in the region, and their use of civilians as shields is deplorable.

I am grateful that Israel has taken so many steps to wage a careful, targeted effort, focused on eliminating terrorist elements while also minimizing other damage.

I applaud the President for moving forward on the right track in demanding that Hezbollah be eliminated from Lebanon, and also hope this will be the opportunity for the Arab world to unite against terrorism. Iran and Syria should take notice—supporting terrorist organizations is not a proper activity of governments.

Mr. Speaker, I once again reiterate my strong support of H. Res. 921, and would have voted in favor if my voting card had registered successfully.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday July 24th, I was unavoidably detained due to family matters I had to attend to in Seattle, WA and was not present for rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted: "Yea" on rollcall 394, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under

which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps.

"Yea" on rollcall 395, to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

"Yea" on rollcall 396, to establish a grant program whereby moneys collected from violations of the corporate average fuel economy program are used to expand infrastructure necessary to increase the availability of alternative fuels.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEWIS  
RANDOLPH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Lewis Randolph who will celebrate 30 years as pastor of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church on October 14th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Reverend Randolph was installed as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in 1976 as the church's fifteenth pastor. He quickly made an imprint upon the congregation by a twofold plan of renovating the physical structure of the church grounds and by evangelizing in the community.

Starting in 1979 and continuing over the next 30 years, Pastor Randolph renovated the sanctuary, improved the parking lots, added a new kitchen, dining facility, and improved the upper level of the church.

As a part of the church's covenant "to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality"; Reverend Randolph has organized and supported numerous auxiliaries and ministries. These include the Voices of Antioch Choir, the Usher Board and a Concerned Committee to help persons return to the church. He added a new Easter Sunday worship service, supports a ministry in Haiti, teaches a weekly Bible class, and distributes Bibles and baskets of food in the community.

Recognizing the need to encourage young people, he has made sure that Antioch Missionary Baptist Church has been well represented in the Young Peoples Department of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated over the past several years. Under his tutelage several pastors began their ministries with his guidance and direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Lewis Randolph. The Flint community is a better place because of his leadership.

RECOGNIZING DREW KELLY FOR  
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

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

Drew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Drew 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 Drew Kelly 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 DR. PETE G.  
MEHAS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Pete G. Mehas, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Mehas is retiring at the end of his current term and his unwavering commitment to students and education will be missed, but never forgotten.

Like many others, I consider myself fortunate to count Pete Mehas as a friend and advisor. His life's work embodies the very basic values—hard work, respect for people and family—that make it possible for a person to have a profound influence on others.

Pete Mehas was born, raised and educated in Fresno, California. Growing up he worked during the 40s and 50s for his father at the Fresno Malt Shop and the Athenian Restaurant. At age 19 Pete hitchhiked around the world on a personal odyssey of discovery and cultural exploration. Over the years, the call of family and his pride of heritage have drawn him back to his ancestral homeland, the magnificent Greek Islands. But Pete Mehas has always come back to the Central Valley where he spent his professional career advancing education on many fronts, in classrooms, boardrooms and the legislative halls of Sacramento and our nation's capitol.

During his career, Pete has been a teacher, a coach, a school principal, an associate district superintendent and a legislative advocate. His efforts on behalf of education have been driven by his often-stated belief that, "Children are the living message we send to a time we will not see." His personal objective has always been to serve as a model of high values, coupled with strong character and love of country and to hopefully pass those standards on to the next generation.

Pete has never let his success go to his head. In fact, to this day he continues to visit classrooms to read to young students and encourage them to succeed. His utter lack of pretense has been a hallmark of his career and made it possible for him to inspire others and bring people together.

Elected four times to the position of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Pete Mehas' well-documented career dedication to education has been recognized many times by others. He has participated in Presidential Education Summits on education, served as an education policy advisor to three California governors and held leadership positions in nu-

merous education organizations and associations. Pete's many honors include being the first recipient in 1990 of the Fresno Public Education Fund's Gold Star Alumni Award. And his leadership has been praised by organizations as varied as the California Farm Bureau Federation and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Beyond the honors that have come his way as his professional success multiplied over the years, Pete Mehas has always been devoted to his family. His mother Sylvia, his wife Demi, sisters Tula and Georgia and his daughters Alethea and Andreaanna have enriched his life as only family can.

And though Pete Mehas has talked with world leaders, Presidents, Governors and business leaders, I know nothing compares to the loving sound he hears from his twin granddaughters, Andreaanna and Isabella, when they whisper "pappou", Greek for "grandpa", in his ear.

Though he will soon retire as Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, there can be no uncertainty that Pete Mehas will continue to make a valuable contribution to his community, state and nation. Pete's future efforts will, I am sure, be reflective of his personal philosophy which is summed up so well in the words of his favorite songwriter, Jimmy Buffet, when he sings, "Yesterdays are over my shoulder, so I can't look back for too long. There's just too much to see waiting in front of me, and I know that I just can't go wrong."

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL'S  
MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical service, as a fully admitted and recognized member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This 60-year effort to win membership for Israel's humanitarian society solely on the basis the MDA uses the Star of David as its symbol.

Since its founding in 1930, MDA has been a leading participant in international humanitarian relief efforts and in training and instruction in emergency services techniques. Regrettably, the organization has been denied full membership in the International Committee for the Red Cross, ICRC, because of anti-Israel bias among countries that refuse to recognize the State of Israel or the symbol of the Star of David. This political discrimination is in direct violation of the ICRC principle of maintaining neutrality and impartiality in conflicts.

MDA has been a committed humanitarian society embodying all the goals and ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. MDA has been an impartial force in the international community helping victims all over the world after the Southeast Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, disastrous flooding of the River Danube in Romania, even helping those considered enemies of Israel. But for 60 years, Israel was denied membership. There was no good reason for MDA to be forced to wait this long to be a member of ICRC when their ef-

forts are solely humanitarian and separate from the decades-old political conflict existing in the Middle East.

The process of International recognition has been a long and arduous process tainted by discrimination allowing politics to outweigh the humanitarian objectives of the MDA. A diplomatic conference in Geneva in December 2005 was a significant step in the process of enabling MDA to finally become a full member in the International Committee of the Red Cross. On December 8, 2005 the signatory countries to the Geneva Conventions approved a Third Additional Protocol establishing a new neutral Red Crystal emblem by a vote of 98 in favor, 27 against, with 10 abstentions. After all these years, the Syrian delegation still tried to stall the vote, but in the end was unable to prevent the adoption of the Third Protocol.

I am pleased that this longstanding injustice has been rectified and MDA is permitted to conduct international humanitarian operations under a third neutral symbol. We should not allow decades old disputes and larger, unrelated political problems in the Middle East to impede the work of Israel's humanitarian aid society.

I also take this time to applaud the efforts of U.S. diplomats and American organizations for bringing the issue of MDA's exclusion from the ICRC to the focus of the international community. Without U.S. leadership on this important issue and the pressure that both our leaders and the American Red Cross put on the ICRC, this wrong that has existed since Israel's founding would not have been redressed. Our country understood that we should not allow politics to prevail over humanitarian efforts in any country no matter what the political climate or religious beliefs are. I also thank the American Red Cross for its continued support to help open the channels for MDA's acceptance in the ICRC. I fully support the decision of the American Red Cross, since 2000, to protest the exclusion of MDA by withholding \$42 million in annual dues from ICRC. Finally, I would like to thank Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, for its efforts lobbying Congress and working with the U.N. and the American Red Cross in support of MDA.

MDA should never have been linked to the fate of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and with the adoption of a third neutral symbol will be able to fulfill its humanitarian mission. The adoption of a neutral symbol is a celebration that humanitarian principles have triumphed above politics and bigotry.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor Tim Friedman, who will be retiring after 30 years of service in the Democratic Cloakroom. My staff and I rely on the Cloakroom on a daily basis. The Cloakroom staff is reliable and knowledgeable and serves as the voice of reason during often chaotic times on the floor. Tim Friedman was a big part of the Cloakroom operations and I know my colleagues and I will miss seeing him everyday.

But his retirement is certainly well-earned and I hope he enjoys the next chapter in his life.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MICHAEL  
ROBINSON

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Rabbi Michael Robinson who died July 20, 2006, surrounded by friends and family at his home in Sebastopol, California.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second time I have risen to honor this unique man who has dedicated his life to the cause of social justice at home and around the world. On the last occasion, several years ago Rabbi Robinson received a civil liberties award from the ACLU of Sonoma County recognizing a lifetime of achievements and his passionate advocacy for civil rights. From the American civil rights movement to the Nicaraguan Contra war to the Israel-Palestinian conflict Michael Robinson has been on the front lines promoting peace and the improvement of humanity.

Born in North Carolina, Michael received his B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and attended North Carolina State College before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. He served in the Pacific and became a pacifist immediately after this experience.

In 1952, after completing a course of study at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Michael became the first North Carolina native to be ordained as a rabbi. He later earned his doctoral degree from the New York Theological Seminary and served in temples in Seattle and Pomona as well as 29 years as an activist leader at Temple Israel in Westchester, New York. During the civil rights movement, the synagogue raised money to help rebuild the black churches that had been burned in the South and finance the van used by the Freedom Riders to tour the South. Michael marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, and expressed his convictions with these words: "When I was ten years old I began sitting on the back seat of the bus with 'colored people.' I never returned to the front seat."

After moving to Sonoma County with his wife Ruth, Michael served Shomrei Torah, and is credited with growing the congregation from 30 families to now the largest Jewish congregation (175) in Santa Rosa, CA. Retired since 1996, Rabbi Robinson holds the title of Rabbi Emeritus at both Temple Israel and Shomrei Torah.

In addition to promoting affirmative action, same sex marriage, affordable housing, and other equality issues, Michael has worked against nuclear war, apartheid, and all forms of injustice. He is known locally for his involvement in the Sonoma County Task Force on Homelessness, Children's Village, the Living Wage Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center, and the Sonoma Land Trust.

A founding Member of Angry White Guys for Affirmative Action in 1996, Michael's words still resonate: "I hope that my anger will not dissipate until justice is done and every man, woman and child has equal access to all the

privileges of a democratic society and receives equal respect."

Michael is survived by his wife Ruth, his sister Leah Karpen, his daughters Jude and Sharon, and 3 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I share Rabbi Michael Robinson's hope that we as a nation can become better people and create a just society. And I join with his family and friends in the belief that we can best honor his life by making the work of peace and social justice a priority in our own lives.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
RICHARD E. NICHOLS, JR.

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize LTC Richard E. Nichols, Jr. The Lieutenant Colonel is retiring from the United States Army after 24 years of distinguished service.

Lieutenant Colonel Nichols spent his early years growing up in the heartland of Kansas and Missouri. While attending Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri, he made the decision to serve his country in the United States Army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1982. Upon graduating from Missouri Western State College in 1983 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration, Lieutenant Colonel Nichols served in the Kansas Army National Guard as the Reconnaissance and Survey Platoon Leader for the 2nd/130th Field Artillery Battalion in Hiawatha, Kansas.

Lieutenant Colonel Nichols went on to serve in various posts over the next 24 years. During his service he was assigned to C Battery, 1/76th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Division, in Bamberg, Germany, and as the commander of B Battery, 6th Field Artillery, which deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm from 1989 to 1991. In these roles and under various posts in Kansas, Alabama, and Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Nichols has earned numerous awards and decorations. Among these awards are the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal with service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Saudi Arabia Liberation of Kuwait Service Medal, the Emirate of Kuwait Liberation of Kuwait Service Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing LTC Richard E. Nichols, Jr., an outstanding leader in the United States Army. His years of service and dedication in protecting the freedom of the United States has been an inspiration to many. I commend him for his many years of service and I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress.

COMMENDING THE INDUSTRIAL  
EMERGENCY COUNCIL

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the invaluable services offered by the Industrial Emergency Council (IEC) in my district. I had the great honor recently to meet with this group and I was very impressed with their zeal and loyalty to the citizens of California. The IEC is a non-profit organization founded by several hardworking and dedicated constituents in the 1970s. They provide training and assessment programs that help prepare local businesses for emergency responses to industrial accidents and natural disasters. In a part of the country where earthquakes, flash floods and other disasters often have devastating effects, the IEC takes public safety seriously by educating at-risk federal, industrial, corporate and academic installations about the dangers they confront.

The Council is comprised of commendable and experienced membership. Its founder, James O'Donnell, served as Battalion Chief and Fire Marshall of the San Carlos Fire Department and is a leader hazardous materials planning. Other members include: John Paine, a consultant to the gas industry for over thirty years; Mark Green, the founder of an environmental consulting group; Paul Stanley, the facility manager for a large bay-area pharmaceutical company; Richard Foster, the former city manager for Foster City and Jack Leslie, former Battalion Chief of the Palo Alto Fire Department. These career professionals have pooled their respective knowledge and experience managing industrial hazards and now generously share their expertise on a volunteer basis.

In response to a variety of client needs, the IEC provides a wide array of services. They offer several specially tailored training services for employees, ranging from Emergency Medical training to Hazardous Materials and Waste operations. They help work with industrial facilities to assess the natural and technological risks to their operations. In addition, IEC assists clients in the execution of comprehensive action plans designed to address identified hazards.

IEC's vision was best realized in the formation of the San Mateo County Hazardous Materials Response Plan. In 1984, the Council organized a response unit to classify the actual and potential threats in the county. This unparalleled endeavor won national recognition as a commendably comprehensive plan, serving 18 separate jurisdictions in the state. Even though the industrial emphasis in my district has shifted towards biotech and hi-tech industries, the response unit remains important in dealing with hazardous materials,

To adjust to the emerging threats against our homeland security, the IEC organized a weapons of mass destruction exercise in early 2005, designed for first responders. Over 1000 members of law enforcement, fire and public works received vital joint training, which stressed information sharing among different personnel. The entire endeavor was hugely successful thanks to the unwavering enthusiasm of our dedicated public servants at the IEC.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the praiseworthy efforts of my fellow Californians at the Industrial Emergency Council who help protect us from the dangers we face every day.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF RONNIE  
TOUNGETTE'S 26-YEAR SERVICE  
TO HUMPHREYS COUNTY

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a local hero who has dedicated his life to making sure our community stays safe. After 26 years as Humphreys County Sheriff, Ronnie Toungette is retiring.

Toungette was born in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, grew up in West Nashville and later moved to Waverly, where he eventually became a sheriff's deputy. In 1980, he was appointed county sheriff, and the people of Humphreys County re-elected him to that position again and again.

Sheriff Toungette has been instrumental in cleaning up the numerous methamphetamine labs that have sprouted up as Humphreys County and other communities across the country have fought to control the spread of the dangerous drug. Humphreys County has been a leader in combating meth, and Ronnie's efforts on that front should not go unnoticed.

Toungette and his wife, Darlene, have five grown children, Ronnie, Jr., Stephanie, Shelly, Marcella and Amanda; and eight grandchildren, Matthew, Zachary, Scott, Trey, Tyler, Kirston, Kayla and Kylie.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Ronnie Toungette on his retirement and thank him for his 26 years of service as the sheriff of Humphreys County. His tireless work has helped make our community a safe and secure place to live.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
RHETT PAYNE, JR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, recently, south Alabama lost a dear friend, a man who was the epitome of a true southern gentleman, and I rise today to pay tribute to his memory.

Rhett Payne was a kind and gentle man. He was generous to a fault and good to the core. Moreover, he came from the era that Tom Brokaw has called "the Greatest Generation." Mr. Rhett answered his country's call to service when World War II broke out—as so many other young boys did at that time—and he returned home a few years later to help make his beloved Jackson a better place to live.

He was a success in business, retiring as district manager for Liberty National Life Insurance Company after three decades of service.

Moreover, he was a winner in life, circling himself with numerous friends and confidantes who all enjoyed his sound judgment, wise counsel and his good humor.

Perhaps the ultimate feather in Mr. Rhett's distinguished cap was his beloved wife of 59 years, Jean, and their two sons, Rhett III and Bill, and the wonderful families they have helped to foster.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many tributes made to the life of Rhett Payne since his untimely passing but none, I think, captures his very essence as a good and decent man better than the article written by my friend, Jim Cox, publisher of the South Alabamian. With your permission, I would like to enter Jim's tribute to Rhett Payne at this time:

The fairways are lush and unbroken. The greens are like the felt atop a quality pool table. It is a perfect golf course . . . but perfect means there are even some challenging holes.

Bounding over the crest of the hill is a youthful Rhett Payne Jr. trailed by his good friend, an equally young and vigorous Bob Harper. They are having a great time. They should be. They are playing the "Cloud 9 X 2" course at No. 9 Heavenly Lane.

I smiled through my tears as I fancied the scene while the Rev. Rhett Payne III was speaking at his father's funeral Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Jackson where the senior Payne was a longtime member.

The image was prompted by the Rev. Payne's—"Little Rhett"—reference to his dad being buried with his favorite putter in his hands. He commented that the late Bob Harper, a good friend and longtime president of Merchants Bank, had nicknamed him "Puttin' Payne."

The senior Payne was a charter member of the Jackson Golf Course. He loved the game and a tournament was named in his honor in 1994.

For over 25 years, Rhett and Jean Payne have been a part of my life. Jean has worked with me and for me in the newspaper business. She's earned the nickname "Aunt Jean," from a host of younger people she's come in contact with and influenced over the years, me included.

If she was an aunt, then Rhett was certainly a grand uncle, although the handle was rarely added.

Rhett Payne was a southern gentleman—courtly, well-mannered, and soft-spoken. He didn't gossip much and he rarely criticized or downgraded people.

His son and others commented on his constant and contagious smile and that, along with his sparkling eyes and easy laugh, is what I will remember about Rhett Payne Jr.

Rhett loved to laugh and have a good time. His laughs were not loud guffaws but soft chuckles. They were real and authentic, not put ons.

Rhett was of the "Greatest Generation," a group of World War II veterans who served their country and the world honorably in a time of great crisis and then came home to work and help mold and develop communities. They are fast leaving us and their replacements are not of the same caliber.

By the time I really got to know Rhett, he was retired as a district manager for Liberty National Life Insurance. He had worked for the company for 3 decades.

By then, Jean and I were working together. I'd see him at the office and at office parties, and I visited him frequently in their home where I was always a welcomed guest.

Rhett was 88 when he died last week but I never thought of him as being old. While he and Jean were old enough to be my parents, I always thought of them more as peers and contemporaries than as "old folks."

Rhett III did a wonderful job Saturday eulogizing his dad. He stepped the congregation through the seasons and through amusing in-

cidents that he and his younger brother, William McCrary "Bill" Payne, remembered of their growing up years with Rhett and Jean.

He detailed his parents' love and said they went out almost every Friday night, still "dating" to keep their love alive.

They were married for 59 years.

Jean and Rhett loved to dance. If you never saw them performing on the dance floor, you really missed something. Think of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and you'll come close.

I was at some event, political or newspaper, I'm not sure, years ago and the Paynes were there, too. There was a band and a few couples were muddling through dances. I was at the back of the room when I noticed the crowd parting around the dance floor. I edged to the side of the group and there was Jean and Rhett. It was then that I really understood the phrase "cutting a rug." They were having a ball. And so was everybody watching them.

Time is not important in Heaven. Rhett may be enjoying his golf game now but he will trade his golf shoes for his dancing shoes one day when he'll swing his beloved Jean out across a celestial dance floor.

Of course, we are in no hurry down here, Rhett. Enjoy your game!

Mr. Speaker, may the entire Payne family draw some comfort during their time of grief with the knowledge that their beloved husband, father and grandfather will be sorely missed.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CON-  
DEMNNS BOMB BLASTS IN BOM-  
BAY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has condemned the train bombings in Bombay this week. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, whom most of us know, said that "this is a terrible incident and shameful for whoever carried it out. Terrorism is never acceptable."

The attacks have been attributed to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Kashmiri organization. One thing you have to say about Lashkar, though: normally, they take responsibility for what they do. But as Dr. Aulakh pointed out, they have not done so in this instance and the attack fits the pattern of the kinds of attacks carried out by the Indian government and its operatives, which the Council of Khalistan details in the release. These include the Air India bombing, the many attacks on Christian groups, the Gujarat massacre, and the fact that as the Washington Times reported, India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh. These are not the acts of a responsible democracy.

This kind of activity is the mark of a terrorist state, Mr. Speaker. If we are serious about fighting terrorism, we should stop our aid and trade with India and we should support a free and fair plebiscite in the minority nations that seek their freedom in South Asia.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNNS TRAIN  
BOMBINGS

WASHINGTON, DC., July 12, 2006—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned the train bombings in Bombay in which 190 people were killed and over 660 were injured.

"This is a terrible incident and shameful for whoever carried it out," Dr. Aulakh said. "Terrorism is never acceptable." He endorsed the request to donate blood for the victims. "We should join together to take care of the people who were victimized by this brutal attack," he said. The Council of Khalistan leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Dr. Aulakh was interviewed on WRC-TV Channel 4 news in Washington yesterday about the bombings. Dr. Aulakh noted that the first-class cabins were bombed. "This is where the rich people hid," he said. No one has taken responsibility for the attack, although the Indian government has blamed the Kashmiri organization Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"This is the kind of thing the Indian government is quite capable of carrying out itself," Dr. Aulakh said. He noted that the book *Soft Target* shows how the Indian regime bombed its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people, to justify further repression against the Sikhs. The flight was bound for Bombay. The book quotes an investigator from the Canadian Security Investigation Service as saying, "If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved." The book shows that within hours after the flight was blown up, the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Surinder Malik (no relation to Ripudaman Singh Malik), called in a detailed description of the bombing and the names of those he said were involved, information that the Canadian government didn't discover until weeks later. Mr. Malik said to look on the passenger manifest for the name "L. Singh." This would turn out to be Lal Singh, who told the press that he was offered "two million dollars and settlement in a nice country" by the Indian regime to give false testimony in the case.

India fomented and pre-planned the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat, according to a police officer who was quoted in the newspapers. Government forces were caught re-handed in a village in Kashmir, trying to burn down the Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) and some Sikh homes, to blame the Muslims. Two independent investigations, one carried out jointly by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) and the Punjab Human Rights Organization and the other carried out by the International Human rights Organization of Ludhiana, both concluded that Indian troops carried out the massacre of 38 Sikhs in Chithlsinghpora. Both former President Bill Clinton, in his introduction to Madeleine Albright's book, and New York Times reporter Barry Bearak came to the same conclusion. The killers dressed as "militants" but spoke to each other in the language of the Indian army. This is just one of many incidents where the Indian army or its paid "Black Cats" paramilitary have been caught carrying out terrorist incidents while trying to create the impression that they were alleged "militants."

The Indian newsmagazine *India Today* reported that the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, identified by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization. The January 2, 2002 issue of the *Washington Times* noted that India sponsors cross-border terrorism in Sindh. The Indian newspaper *Hitavada* reported that India paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to foment and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

A report issued by MASR show that India admitted that it held 52,268 political pris-

oners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Government-allied Hindu militants have burned down Christian churches and prayer halls, murdered priests, and raped nuns. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) described the rapists as "patriotic youth" and called the nuns "antinational elements." Hindu radicals, members of the Bajrang Dal, burned missionary Graham Stewart Staines and his two sons, ages 10 and 8, to death while they surrounded the victims and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," the Hindu monkey-faced God. The Bajrang Dal is the youth arm of the RSS. The VHP is a militant Hindu Nationalist organization that is under the umbrella of the RSS.

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "This is the only issue. India is a terrorist state in which we will never escape from the repression and tyranny," he said. "It is time to liberate Khalistan so that the Sikh Nation can live in freedom, security, prosperity, and dignity," he said. "Remember the words of former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani he is not a Sikh.' The only way we can escape the terrorism and repression is to free Khalistan. Khalistan Zindabad."

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN RONALD CHASTAIN

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay special recognition to Air Force Captain Ronald Chastain, a native of Jacksonville, Alabama and the son-in-law of a long-time colleague of mine who was recently honored for saving a man's life.

On May 29th, Captain Chastain, an Air Traffic Control specialist stationed in Okinawa, Japan, was on his way to welcome home a fellow airman returning from Iraq when he noticed a vehicle that had crashed and caught fire. He, and two other men, acted quickly and risked their own lives to pull the victim from his burning car. Their heroism helped save the victim's life, and on June 15th, the Okinawa Prefectural Police Department held a ceremony in Chastain's honor for his actions.

A graduate of Jacksonville High School, Chastain is fulfilling his dream of seeing the world and serving his country. He is guided by God's grace and love for his family. He said his wife, Susan, and sons, Hayden and Caleb,

were in his thoughts as he worked to rescue the man from his burning car that dark and rainy night.

I salute Captain Ronald Chastain for working to save this man's life, for his continued efforts to serve and protect our country, and for helping serve as a role model for us all.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MARION PAUL SANCHEZ, SR.

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great American, Marion Paul Sanchez, Sr. June 2, 1922–May 27, 2006. I honor him today for his service in the United States Navy during World War II and his dedication to his family.

Mr. Sanchez served on the USS *Kula Gulf* CVE 108 during World War II. The USS *Kula Gulf* was commissioned on May 12, 1945 and on August 5 was assigned to the 7th Fleet in the Western Pacific. The *Kula Gulf* patrolled the East China Seas, shuttled planes between Saipan and Guam, and transported veterans of the Pacific Theater around the region and back to the United States.

After returning from the war, Mr. Sanchez married MaryAnn Del Razo in 1948 and began what would become a 59-year marriage. Mr. Sanchez decided to follow in his father's footsteps and began a career in agriculture, where he spent 50 years growing produce in California's Central Valley. Over the course of his career he employed hundreds of workers and grew cotton, tomatoes, lettuce, garlic, asparagus, cantaloupes, bell peppers, alfalfa, prunes, grapes, sugar beets, and corn.

Farming allowed Mr. Sanchez to pursue his true passion in life, which was raising his family. He had four boys; Theodore, Richard, Ronald, and Marion. Through the years, the Sanchez family has grown, and Mr. Sanchez became the proud grandparent to 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Mr. Sanchez took great pride in his family and loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Sanchez was an avid golfer and played 18 holes, 2 days a week, until his passing in May of 2006. Mr. Sanchez's approach to the game of golf illustrates his approach to life. He was dedicated to the game, always willing to try new things, and never let a bad round affect the next.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute Marion Paul Sanchez, Sr. for his service to our Nation and dedication to his family.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT RON LOMPART

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition, and with thanks, for the 31 years of exemplary service Police Sergeant Ron Lompert has given to the City of Simi Valley, California.

Ron's last day as a Simi Valley police officer is tomorrow. He began his career as a Simi Valley police officer fresh out of the academy just 4 years after the city incorporated.

They matured together.

They matured well.

Mr. Speaker, Simi Valley is my home. I served as mayor there for 7 years before being elected to Congress. I am proud of the fact that Simi Valley is routinely recognized as one of the safest cities in the United States. That recognition is in large part due to the caliber of the men and women of the Simi Valley Police Department.

That being true, Ron Lompart is largely responsible for the high caliber of the men and women who serve the Simi Valley Police Department. Ron is responsible for overseeing the training of new officers as one of the department's two Field Training Program Sergeants. He also is a patrol supervisor, overseeing the daily actions of both rookies and veterans alike.

Ron's career parallels his dual dedication to both the City of Simi Valley and the men and women with whom he serves. After 6 years as a patrol officer, Ron was promoted to sergeant in 1981. He served with distinction on the department's SWAT team for 10 years and worked as a Rangemaster and Participative Management Team member. In addition, Ron represented the department's rank-and-file as a board member of both the Simi Valley Police Officers' Association and the Peace Officers Research Association of California.

After 31 years in a police uniform—after 3 years in a U.S. Army uniform—Ron looks forward to spending time as a civilian with his wife, Cindy, and their three children, doing a bit of hunting and perhaps some cruising.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking my friend Ron Lompart for his decades of service to the City of Simi Valley and his country, and in wishing him Godspeed in his retirement.

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HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we don't recognize often enough the talented and dedicated individuals who are critical to the operations of the House of Representatives. They safeguard our traditions and keep our great institution functioning. Tim Friedman is one of these essential individuals. I can't remember the House of Representatives without him and will miss him when he retires.

Tim arrived in 1976 during my first term in Congress. He has been an invaluable part of the House during his exceptional service. Tim started in the Doorkeeper's Office and then worked as an Assistant to the Sergeant of Arms. But I'm sure most of my colleagues, like me, remember his work in the Democratic Cloakroom best.

Tim has put the institution of the House first and has done all he can to help Members and staff do their jobs the best way possible. Now it's time for him and his wife Colleen to take a well-deserved break and play golf the best way possible. And, although their new home will be North Carolina, they'll keep an eye to

the north and spend a good amount of their time off the links cheering the New York Yankees and Buffalo Bills on to greatness.

We will miss Tim greatly and will remain indebted to him for making the House of Representatives a better institution.

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STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment with the President's decision to use his veto power to reject the Congress's will to see H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, become public law, and I stand in support of millions of Americans who will benefit from the promises of embryonic stem cell research. Each year, I meet several hundred, perhaps thousands, of constituents who share with me how Federal support of embryonic stem cell research could vastly change their lives. There are a few constituents in particular who stand out on this issue. Late last year, Maddie and Tommy Poulin, just 4 and 5 years old, traveled from Rhode Island to Washington. These two young children talked with me about what their life is like with Type I Diabetes. In a journal they left with me, Maddie included an entry that said, "I really hope you can help us find a cure, we're not asking for a lot, we just want to live without needles."

Stem cell research also holds promise for those suffering from Parkinson's disease, like my good friend, and the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, Claiborne Pell. Senator Pell's contributions to our country are too numerous to list, but I know his legacy is honored everyday when individuals are able to attend college with the assistance of a Pell Grant. He stood up for those without a voice for over 35 years, and now it is time for us to stand up for him.

Sue Sgambato, a cancer survivor living in Rhode Island, visits my office regularly to advocate on behalf of patients in our State. Rhode Island has one of the highest rates of cancer in the Nation, and stem cell research may provide clues on how to beat this devastating disease. I cannot and will not stand by and let one more person be diagnosed with cancer, Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's disease, or multiple sclerosis without holding the President responsible for his action today.

It is absolutely tragic that President Bush has used his very first and only veto on an issue of such importance to American families. Every family in America has a loved one who is suffering from a disease that could benefit from the advances of stem cell research. This veto is only the latest action that President Bush has taken against medical research. He has also level funded the National Institutes of Health, and cut programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), limiting our Nation's ability to find better treatments and cures for diseases.

President Bush had a choice today, and he chose politics over people. I want to assure my friends in Congress, as well as the people of the First District of Rhode Island, that today's veto is not the end to this debate, it is only the beginning. Congress has voted overwhelmingly in support of stem cell research, and this bill remains a top priority for a majority of elected officials. I promise that I will continue to do everything within my power to get this legislation back to the President's desk, and to get this language into our public law. We will be back, and we will succeed.

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TRIBUTE TO SARAH JORDAN-HOLMES

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sarah Jordan-Holmes, an incredibly gifted leader and fundraiser who put her talents, her heart and her faith into improving our community.

As President and CEO of Prevent Blindness Florida for 15 years, Sarah raised millions of dollars, won over countless supporters for its mission and brought national attention to the organization. Through her work, Prevent Blindness Florida earned Tampa Bay Business Journal's "Non-Profit of the Year Award" in the area of Health Services, and Sarah earned the Association of Fundraising Professionals Lifetime Achievement Award.

Prevent Blindness Florida was not the only worthy cause that was blessed to count Sarah as an advocate. She led fundraising campaigns for the Florida Museum of Science and Industry, the YMCA and the University of South Florida. In addition, Sarah was active in a host of other local community, charitable and professional organizations.

Sarah's tireless work on behalf of the organizations she championed was deeply rooted in her faith and dedication to serve others. She served as a senior warden and vestry member of the St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church, president of the board of trustees for the Southwest Florida Episcopal Church Foundation, member of the Diocesan Standing Committee and participant in the Cursillo Movement.

It is no surprise that Sarah was so successful in her lifetime. She was a natural leader, a role model for everyone she met and a genuine go-getter. Sarah's faith and inner strength helped guide her through her long struggle with cancer—a challenge she faced with great dignity. During her lifetime, cut short by cancer, Sarah lived life to its fullest and gave to her family, friends and thousands of others to a point few people achieve in their lifetimes. Her powerful example will inspire many in our community and state for generations.

Among all her accomplishments, Sarah was most proud of her role as wife and mother. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to her family for their loss. May they find comfort in Sarah's legacy—her contributions to our community will not be forgotten.

AUGUST AS PSORIASIS  
AWARENESS MONTH**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the National Psoriasis Foundation and of August as Psoriasis Awareness Month, I would like to bring attention to this often overlooked and serious disease that affects as many as 7.5 million Americans. Psoriasis is a chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. Ten to 30 percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints. Psoriasis is widely misunderstood and undertreated. In addition to the pain, itching and bleeding caused by psoriasis, many affected individuals also experience social discrimination and stigma. Many people mistakenly believe psoriasis to be contagious. Psoriasis typically strikes between the ages of 15 and 25 and lasts a lifetime. As such, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis impose significant burden on individuals and society; together they cost the nation 56 million hours of lost work and between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in treatments each year.

I am pleased that the 89,000 affected Oregonians have access to the knowledgeable support offered by the Oregon affiliate of the National Psoriasis Foundation. Support group interaction and discussion provides individuals affected by this debilitating disease with much-needed comfort, assistance and resources. The work of the support groups in Oregon is invaluable, and I commend the efforts of those involved.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 38 years. This year, the National Psoriasis Foundation had nearly one hundred participants join in its Capitol Hill Day to elevate awareness and understanding of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and have policymakers take action to address access to care and boost the nation's research efforts.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR PHILLIP  
GARRETT**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major Phillip Garrett on his newest posting as Chief of Police of Mobile, Alabama.

Major Garrett was born on December 26, 1950, in Prentiss, Mississippi. His education and specialized training is extensive, including attending the 194th session of the FBI Academy and receiving a bachelor of science degree from Troy State University in Criminal Justice Administration. He has served on the Mobile Police Department for 33 years, starting his career as a patrol officer. Since 1999, Garrett has served as head of the department's Community Services Division.

Major Garrett has received many commendations and recognitions, including the

Chief's Commendation from Chief Sam Cochran, the Life Saving Award from the Mobile Police Department, and the Medal of Valor from the Mobile Police Department. He has also been recognized for his outstanding performances on Competitive Promotional Exams, and in 2004, he was recognized as the top scorer on the Competitive Promotional Exam for Major.

Garrett is considered an innovator amongst his colleagues and has worked to improve relationships between officers and the community. He served on the Envision Coastal America Steering Committee, the Underage Drinking Taskforce, and the Clean Start Pre-natal Substance Abuse Committee. He is also a member of the board of directors for Camp Rap-A-Hope, a children's oncology summer camp. Major Garrett is married to Tammy Smitherman and has three children: Phillip M. Garrett, Jr., Sergeant Matthew Ryan Garrett of the Mobile Police Department, and Kendall W. Smitherman.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Major Phillip Garrett and commend him for his hard work and this well-deserved appointment as Chief of Police of Mobile, Alabama. I know Major Garrett's family and friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Mobile.

## REPRESSION IN INDIA EXPOSED

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the London Institute of South Asia recently published an edition of its Journal. It included many excellent articles on the plight of minorities in India. There were articles about the Sikhs, Dalits, Muslims, and others. A writer named Tim Phares wrote a very comprehensive article on the subject that I would like to share with my colleagues.

He took note of the plight of the Sikhs, the Dalits, the Muslims, the Christians, and other minorities in India. He noted that Christians have become "the targets of choice." He noted that the Indian constitution bans the caste system but it remains in place, a vehicle of oppression of minorities. He reported that India's constitution denies people their fundamental right of self-determination. That is the essence of democracy, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how a country can call itself democratic when it denies people such a fundamental democratic right.

The article takes note of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), formed in support of the fascist movement, publishing a booklet on how to frame Christians and other minorities in fake criminal cases. It comments on anti-conversion laws. It details some of the violence that has come about due to such laws. Shouldn't a person's religion be a fundamental freedom, Mr. Speaker?

The article notes the studies that have been done on the massacre in Chithisinghpura in which at least 35 Sikhs were murdered. It notes that they have come to the common conclusion that the Indian government's forces carried out this massacre. It notes the government's involvement in the Gujarat massacres.

The article does an excellent job of detailing incident after incident of repression against minorities in India.

Mr. Speaker, we must do what we can to support freedom throughout the world. It is time to stop our aid and trade with India until it stops being the repressive regime that it is and starts being the democracy that it says it is. We should declare our support for a free and fair plebiscite in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and everywhere people are seeking their freedom in South Asia.

[From the Journal of the London Institute of South Asia, July 2006]

## REPRESSION IN INDIA

(By Tim Phares)

It is not safe to be a minority in India. As U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal.) pointed out, if you're a Sikh, Muslim, Christian, or other minority, "India might as well be Nazi Germany." While democratic elections occur, they have little effects on minorities except to change the faces.

India has committed or allowed to be committed numerous actions against people (men, women and children) within its borders, actions that, if committed against Americans anywhere would be condemned by us as terrorism.

In India, the overwhelming issues are caste and religion. The caste system defines the rights that people enjoy based on a system of social stratification founded on ancestry and occupation. Unless you are born a Brahmin or other upper-caste Hindu, you are a slave in India. The term Brahmin, for all practical purposes, incorporates all the Hindu upper-castes of India. The Brahmins claim that they were the "chosen people of God." Brahmins believe that whatever exists belongs to the Brahmin.

Under BJP rule, a new term—Hindutva—came into use that bundled all the peoples of India (except those of foreign faiths—Christians Muslims and Parsis) into the fold of Hinduism. A Cabinet member in the previous government led by BJP was open about it. He said that in India, either you must be a Hindu or you are subservient to Hinduism. Despite the fact that India's constitution bans the caste system, it remains the foundation of Hinduism and the Hindu supremacist system.

India's constitution ignores that India is many nations brought together only under foreign imperial rule and denies its peoples their right to self-determination as recognized under International Law.

The target of choice these days seems to be the Christians. Indian Christians have faced many hardships. Christians in India report that they or fellow believers have faced threats, physical attacks, and jail time for sharing their faith. Baptisms, in particular, became a significant challenge for local churches. Under the anti-conversion laws, anyone who chose to become baptized was legally obligated to seek permission from the government, as well as provide them with the name of the person performing the baptism. Fearing repercussions, many new Christians did not make this outward profession of faith until after the laws were repealed.

Human-rights organizations report that more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the Indian government. In addition, tens of thousands of Christians have been killed throughout the country. Priests have been killed, nuns have been raped and forced to drink their own urine, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked. No one is ever punished for these activities.

In 2002, the Associated Press reported an attack on a Catholic church on the outskirts

of Bangalore in which several people were injured. The assailants threw stones at the church, then broke in, breaking furniture and smashing windows before attacking worshippers. The February 25, 2002 issue of the Washington Times reported another church attack in which 20 people were wounded. Earlier that month, two church workers and a teenage boy were shot at while they prayed. The boy was injured. Two Christian missionaries were beaten with iron rods while they rode their bicycles home. A Christian cemetery in Port Blair was vandalized. Indian police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

The Hindu militant Rashtriya Swaysmewak Sangh (RSS), of which all the leaders of the BJP and its various allies and factions are members (founded in support of the Fascists in Italy), published a booklet on how to file false criminal cases against Christians and other religious minorities.

The attacks on Christians continue and the oppression of Christians that has been going on since Christmas 1998 is unabated. In fact, the atrocities have been increasing in the past year. According to Rev. Dave Stravers, President of Mission India, "There is no question that extremists are trying to instill fear in Christians. They want to make Christians afraid to assemble or share their faith." These Hindu militants accuse Christians of forcibly converting people, then they forcibly reconvert them to Hinduism.

Several Indian states have passed laws forbidding anyone to convert to any religion other than Hinduism. These laws range from requiring a government fee for converting to forcing Dalits to appear before a magistrate and prove a level of education before converting. They often restrict the religious speech of minority believers as those of a certain income or education level are prohibited from discussing religious matters with uneducated, poor Dalits.

On January 28, 2006, a group of Christians in Madhya Pradesh were engaged in prayer. A mob of Hindu militants stormed the hall, a private facility, and severely beat eight Christians. Five of them are still in the hospital as of this writing. The attack appears to be premeditated. The attackers burst in and knew precisely where to go. They arrived on motorbikes, broke windows, and forced the doors open.

On December 29, 2005 a landmine was planted in the Lengjen (Ngarichan) Committee Hall in Tamenglong District which is a Naga inhabited area in the state of Manipur. The land mine exploded when the children of the village went and played at the hall. One 12-year-old boy died in the hospital. Another boy's limb was ripped off and several others were seriously injured.

On November 4, 2005, a Hindu mob attacked Pastor Feroz Masih of the Believers Church of India. He was threatened with death and arson. After beating Pastor Masih, the Hindu militants told him that unless he and his 60 church members took part in a reconversion, they would be burned to death.

Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons, ages 8 and 10, were burned to death while they slept in their jeep by a mob of Hindus chanting "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god with the face of a monkey. Staines' widow was expelled from the country, but only one person was ever brought to trial for the Staines murder.

American missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then he was expelled from India. No one has ever been brought to justice for Cooper's beating.

The missionaries are having a good deal of success in converting members of the lower castes, especially Dalits, also known as "Untouchables." This removes the lower-caste

people from the stratification of the caste system, which is essential to the Hindu religion and its social structure. Recently, in response to the history of caste and its problems, hundreds of thousands of Indians, Dalits particularly, have turned away from Hinduism to join other religions such as Christianity, Buddhism, and Sikhism. This practice created a backlash from a sizeable portion of the Indian population.

Even though they are officially considered Hindus, the Dalits may be the most oppressed people on Earth. The 250 million lower castes include 170 million people called the Scheduled Castes (Untouchables) and 70 million people called the Tribals. Both are looked upon by upper-caste Hindus as less than human and to touch a Dalit renders a person himself "Untouchable." They are called impure, they are shunned, they are banned from Hindu temples, and they are considered to be so low on India's social scale that they are outside of the caste system.

The Untouchable Dalits and Sudras (another low caste) make up 70 percent of the population of India. Most live in very impoverished conditions. At least half the population of India lives below the international poverty line. Forty percent live on less than two dollars per day.

A few years ago, a Dalit girl was hit across the eyes and blinded by her teacher. Her crime had been to drink from the community water pitcher. A Dalit constable took shelter in a Hindu temple one day, only to be stoned to death by the upper-caste Hindus there. Discrimination against Dalits includes education inequality, economic disenfranchisement, religious discrimination, a poor system of medical care, and targeted violence against women. Dalit students are often denied the opportunity to receive the public education guaranteed by the Indian constitution. Rape is widespread and massively underreported.

On August 31, 2005, upper-caste villagers in the village of Gohana burned more than 60 Dalit residences, driving over 2,000 Dalit families out of Gohana. In 1998, a judge in Allahabad cleaned the courtroom with blessed water from the Ganges River because it was previously occupied by a judicial officer belonging to a Scheduled Caste.

When Dalits are walking in the presence of a Brahmin, they can be beaten or killed with impunity. Under strict interpretation of the caste system, Dalits are obligated to perform certain manual duties for upper-caste families without compensation. These duties include cleaning latrines, skinning dead animals, and crafting leather shoes, and other menial tasks.

The Sikhs are also highly victimized by the Indian government. Over 250,000 Sikhs have been killed since the military attack on the Golden Temple in June 1984, according to the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. The figures were compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy, which represents the judiciary of Punjab. A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) showed that India admitted to holding 52,268 political prisoners. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. How can a democracy hold political prisoners?

According to many reports, some of these political prisoners have been in custody for almost two decades. Amnesty International reported last year that tens of thousands of minorities are being held as political prisoners. These prisoners continue to be held under a law called the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. It empowered the government to hold people virtually indefinitely for any offence or for no offence at all.

In June 2005, at the observance of the Indian government's 1984 military attack on the Golden Temple, a group of Sikhs marched, then made speeches in support of independence for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987, and hoisted the Sikh flag. For this they were arrested. This follows the arrest of 35 Sikhs in January 2005, when they made speeches and raised the Khalistani flag at a Republic Day event. Some of the leaders were held for 50 days without trial.

MASR also co-sponsored with the Punjab Human Rights Organization an investigation of the March 2000 massacre of 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura in Indian Kashmir on the eve of the visit of President Clinton to India. It concluded that Indian forces carried out the massacre. The apparent intent was to make use of the presence of the world press to blame Muslims for massacre and vilify the resistance to the occupation of the state by India. A separate investigation conducted by the International Human Rights Organization came to the same conclusion. So did reporter Barry Bearak of the New York Times magazine.

Recently in the state of Uttaranchal Pradesh, Sikh farmers were forced out of their farms, which were bulldozed, and they were thrown out of the state. They received no compensation and have nowhere to go to find roof over their heads or livelihood for their families. The truth is that discrimination against and oppression of minority faiths is so widespread that it draws little attention within or outside India. Although outsiders are allowed to buy land in the Punjab, Sikhs cannot buy land in neighbouring Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. This discriminatory policy prevents Sikh farmers from making a living. It has impoverished them forcing many to migrate overseas.

About 50,000 Sikhs were ruthlessly killed by the Punjab Police and their bodies were secretly disposed of to hide the crime. Young Sikhs were abducted, tortured and killed in Police custody. Their bodies were then declared "unidentified" and cremated incinerating all proof of the Indian State's barbarity. Countless bodies were consigned to the canals which abound in the Punjab. The secret cremation policy was exposed by human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra who was arrested for publishing his report and was murdered while in police custody.

Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, was interviewed in August 1997 by National Public Radio. He told his interviewer, "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they are secular, that they are democratic. But they have nothing to do with a democracy, nothing to do with secularism. They just kill Sikhs to please the majority."

The Indian government has murdered over 300,000 Muslims in Kashmir. They have sent over 700,000 troops to suppress the people of Kashmir.

On February 27, 2002, a fire on a train in Godhra in Gujarat killed fifty-eight passengers, among them fifteen children. This gave rise to massacres in which 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were murdered. According to a policeman in Gujarat who was quoted in an Indian newspaper, the government pre-planned the massacre. In an eerie parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in November 1984, the police were kept from intervening.

In a 70-page report on the massacre, Human Rights Watch reported that not a single person has been convicted in these massacres. More than one hundred Muslims have been charged under India's much-criticized Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) for their alleged involvement in the train massacre in Godhra. No Hindus have been charged under POTA in connection with the violence against Muslims.

In Lunawade village in Panchmahal district of Kashmir, during the last week of December 2005, a mass grave was discovered. It contained the bodies of at least 26 victims of the Indian government's pogrom against the Muslims. Their crime? The Kashmiri people were promised a referendum on their status in 1948, but that vote has never been held. In 1989, when all hope of that promise being fulfilled had evaporated, violent resistance began that is being ruthlessly crushed resorting to pogroms and genocide that has led to 100,000 resistance fighters being killed by the Indian military.

The Sikhs were promised their own sovereign state by the leaders of the Congress Party (which rules India today) in exchange for their active support to the freedom movement led by it. The Sikhs have continued to press that the promise be kept. Their representatives did not sign and endorse the Indian constitution for it did not fulfill that promise. Instead of respecting "the glow of freedom" that Nehru and Patel promised to the Sikhs, the government declared them a "criminal class" as soon as the ink was dry on the constitution. It is because of betrayal of such promises that currently there are 17 freedom movements going on within India's borders.

Some Members of the U.S. Congress have called for sanctions against India and for an end to American aid. Some have also endorsed self-determination for the peoples seeking freedom from India through a plebiscite on independence. The Indian government's negotiations with the freedom fighters in predominantly Christian Nagaland have taken a turn for the worse lately, as the ceasefire there has been called off. Former Home Minister L.K. Advani said that once Kashmir achieves freedom, it will cause India to break apart. The truth is India can only survive if it conceded the right of self-determination to those areas where peoples have been betrayed. India must fulfill its promises to the people of Punjab, Khalistan (the Sikh homeland), predominantly Christian Nagaland, predominantly Muslim Kashmir, and the tribal peoples of Assam.

India clearly has a problem with its untouchables who are a majority in many states of India. It has failed to assimilate or integrate them. Since they do not belong to a single race, caste or religion, they are increasingly drawn towards Christian egalitarianism to throw off the yoke of slavery imposed by the caste system. I believe that those who ignore the oppression of the low castes and foreign faiths in India and declare India a 'natural ally' and the friendship of the 'biggest democracy' a state objective of the U.S., do not understand India at all. They help perpetuate systematic oppression and humiliation of a vast segment of humanity—700 million people—who have nothing, not even hope for anything. Even if India continues to make rapid economic rise as it is doing, this segment of humanity would be completely bypassed.

#### CAHABA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership, Chairman POMBO, Subcommittee Chairman GILCHREST and Ranking Member PALLONE for allowing the House to consider this legislation. The bill before us today, H.R.

4947, represents a 2nd major step by this Congress in protecting and preserving one of the most biologically diverse areas of the United States.

In 2000, I introduced the legislation that created the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge. That bill passed this Congress and was signed into law. Since that time, each year the Appropriations Committee has dedicated funding for land acquisition. The initial 3,500 acres authorized in that bill have been completely purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The strong support of local elected officials and property owners, coupled with that of many environmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, The Cahaba River Society, and The Land Trust has fostered plans to expand the existing boundaries of The Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge.

Alabama is the 5th most biologically diverse State in the country, but it also has the unfortunate distinction of being the most extinction-prone State in the continental United States, with at least 98 species extinct. The Cahaba River basin alone supports 69 rare and imperiled species. The river is recognized nationally for its unique biological diversity; the Cahaba Shiner, a federally endangered species is just one of more than 131 species of fish that call the Cahaba home. That is more species of fresh water fish than inhabit the entire State of California. The Cahaba's wealth of fish species is greater than any other river of its size in North America.

The Cahaba River also harbors the world's largest population of the imperiled shoals lily, known locally as the "Cahaba Lily." Recently a population of Cahaba pebble-snails was discovered in the refuge. Once thought to be extinct, this marked the first time this species had been seen since the 1960s, an accomplishment that can be attributed to the protection offered by the Cahaba's designation as a Wildlife Refuge.

The proposed expansion of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge would:

Increase direct protection of the banks of the mainstem Cahaba River from the current 3.5 miles to approximately 8 miles, thereby giving additional protection to additional large populations of the globally imperiled shoals spider lily (aka Cahaba lily), and many other rare species.

Provide large enough areas of forest to support viable breeding populations of declining Neotropical migratory birds, both in the longleaf pine forests (e.g. Northern Bobwhite Quail, Brown-headed Nuthatch) and in hardwood forests (e.g. Swainson's Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher).

Provide significant increase in public access to the Cahaba River for canoeing, fishing and other riverine recreational activities.

Provide a significant increase in acreage available to the public for hunting, hiking, birding and other outdoor wildlife-based activities (Alabama has only about 3 percent public land, less than most other States in the Nation).

Provide a significant boost in revenue to Bibb County, one of the poorest counties in the Nation. Due to low prevailing property tax rates, the revenue to the County coffers from the Federal Refuge Revenue Sharing Program (payments in lieu of taxes) have averaged about \$6 per acre per year (versus a yield of about \$1 per acre per year as privately owned timberland).

H.R. 4947 authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase up to an additional 3,600 acres of land and waters. This would double the number of protected acres of the Cahaba, all of which will be purchased from willing sellers. Protecting the land upstream from the original refuge will add to the buffer zone needed to shield this critical habitat and watershed.

The bill before us will help protect one of the greatest natural treasures in my State of Alabama and I urge a "yes" vote.

#### JUMPSTART'S READ FOR THE RECORD

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, literacy development begins at the early stages of a child's life and is the building block to future success. If we as a nation want to enhance our competitive edge in the global marketplace, we must ensure that our children have the basic reading skills to become successful in the classroom and later in the workplace.

On August 24, 2006, people around the country will participate in Jumpstart's "Read for the Record." This unique event will attempt to set the world record for the number of children reading a single book, or being read to, and at the same time allow people of all ages to work together in overcoming the school readiness issues facing our country.

This reading experience will use one of the best known child motivational stories ever produced—The Little Engine That Could. In honor of this day, a special edition of the story was created to include proven reading techniques to help our children grasp core reading foundations. This custom edition was funded solely by a private company dedicated to reading excellence.

Mrs. Laura Bush is the Honorary Chair of Jumpstart's "Read for the Record" project. As a former teacher, Mrs. Bush understands the need for strong reading development.

Demonstrating this project's importance, NBC's Today Show will host a special segment to cover proven reading techniques. Matt Lauer will then read this classic book to children.

I would like to thank Principal Mary Ellen Parks Shell Point Elementary School in Beaufort, South Carolina, for inviting me on August 24th to read to a group of kindergarten students. As an award-winning school dedicated in closing the achievement gap in learning, I am extremely encouraged that the faculty and staff at Shell Point are totally committed to early childhood development through enhanced reading skills.

Jumpstart's "Read for the Record" will raise the necessary awareness and emphasize the importance of early learning in every family. Participation in this event will support the goal that every child can read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. For more information on how you too can foster stronger reading skills in our children, please visit [www.readfortherecord.org](http://www.readfortherecord.org).

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 394, "Yes"; rollcall No. 395, "Yes"; rollcall No. 396, "Yes."

## HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Tim Friedman on the occasion of his retirement from the House after 30 years of faithful service. Tim is a native of Lackawanna, NY, a suburb of Buffalo. He arrived in Washington in 1976 and started his career in the House of Representatives on July 19, 1976 under the patronage of the Hon. Dan Rostenkowski.

He worked as a Doorkeeper under the Hon. James T. Molloy from 1976 to 1982. In 1982 he transferred to the office of the House Sergeant at Arms. Tim was appointed as Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom in 1985 by the Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Speaker of the House.

Tim married Colleen Early in 2003. They are avid golfers and are building a home in Wallace, NC. I hope they have a splendid retirement in Down East, NC.

## HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Tim Friedman, a great friend a great public servant. Next month, Tim will officially retire from the House of Representatives following 30 years of outstanding public service.

Tim grew up in Lackawanna, New York, and came to Washington, DC in 1976. That year, he began his distinguished career with the U.S. House of Representatives under the former Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Dan Rostenkowski. Tim served as a Doorkeeper in the Democratic Cloakroom for the Honorable James T. Molloy from 1976 until 1982, when he began working for the Honorable Jack Russ. In 1985, Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill appointed Tim as the Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom.

In 2003, Tim married his wife, Colleen Early. Tim and Colleen are dedicated golfers and are building a home in Wallace, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, it is a little-known fact outside of Washington that the Democratic and Republican Cloakrooms are vital to Congress' functioning. Dealing with Members of Con-

gress on a daily basis is not an easy task, but Tim has kept our members running on schedule, kept us fed, and kept us smiling for years now, and he will be sorely missed.

I am grateful to Tim for his tremendous service to the House of Representatives, and I wish Tim and Colleen the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO GAYLA GRAHAM  
HEGGMAN**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of a wonderful lady, Gayla Graham Heggman, who passed away June 27, 2006, in a tragic car accident.

An accomplished businesswoman, Gayla was a tremendous asset to Alabama and was adored by many friends and family members. Among other things, Gayla co-owned C&G Boat Works and Graham Gulf Incorporated with her brother Janson Graham. The two, along with their mother, also owned Silver King, a 142-acre golf club. Their businesses spanned across much of lower Alabama achieving not only financial success for the family but providing several contributions to the entire area.

To all who loved her, Gayla was a trusted friend and confidant. Moreover, few things were more important to her than her family and friends. Not surprisingly, Gayla garnered a tremendous amount of respect throughout the southern Alabama community.

Gayla is survived by her mother, Sybil Graham-Radford, her stepfather, Harry Radford, and her brother, Janson. In addition, countless friends, business acquaintances, and fellow community members mourn her passing. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in recognizing the many achievements of Gayla's life.

BOOK ON INDIAN FREEDOM  
STRUGGLE HONORED**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was interested to note that the London Institute of South Asia recently held an event to honor Professor Gurtej Singh for his interesting book *Tandev* of the Centaur. It expounds the theory that the Indian freedom movement was an act of collaboration with the colonialists.

As Professor Gurtej Singh says "As a part of my narration [for the book], I found myself suggesting a theory indicating the spurious nature of India's struggle for freedom. I am aware that it renders the main activities of the Congress Party and its leaders to an exercise in collaboration. But I am in good company in coming to that conclusion. Michael Edwards, in his *The Myth of the Mahatma*, has clearly shown that the British really feared the 'Western style revolutionaries' whom Gandhi effectively neutralized. The Administration considered Gandhi as an ally of the British as a neutralizer of rebellion."

Professor Gurtej Singh has written previously about the false nature of Indian secularism. His book, *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism*, exposes the truth that behind its mask of secularism, India is a repressive, theocratic state where minority rights are not respected.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. We must take strong action to protect the freedom that is the birthright of all people. Self-determination is the essence of democracy. That is why we should put the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslim people of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagalim, and all the peoples of South Asia. We should also stop our aid and trade with India until basic human rights are respected. India is not a friendly country and it has a long record of anti-American activity. Now it wants to be our partner in fighting terrorism, while it practices terrorism and tyranny against its own people. America should not stand for that.

## SEMINAR AND LISA BOOK AWARD—2006

LONDON, June 26, 2006.—London Institute of South Asia (LISA) Seminar on the subject of Separate Electorate was held in London on June 24, 2006 with Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President Council of Khalistan, in the chair. Separate Electorate was introduced by the British in India in 1905 to give fair representation to all of India's many faiths and castes. Separate Electoral rolls for them provided for effective local government for decades. However, when the same was proposed under the Communal Award in 1932 for state assemblies, the high castes—who constituted only 15 per cent of India's population—saw their dominant position threatened. The Congress party started a campaign against the proposal alleging that the British were playing a game of "divide and rule". The Muslims under the leadership of Mr. Jinnah accepted "Separate Electorate" but Mr. Gandhi was able to persuade the leader of the Untouchables, Dr. Ambedkar, by starting a "fast unto death", to reject the British offer. By a deal signed with the Congress Party (Poona Pact of 1932) the Untouchables accepted Joint Electorate with the Hindus. Mr. Gandhi claimed that India was a Hindu country. With perpetual majority assured, the Hindu leadership of the Congress Party set upon the task of denying all the faith and caste identities and their fair share in power.

In the states where the Muslims were in majority, Joint Electorate suited them better but they took a principled stand for the sake of the minorities. Separate Electorate and the Muslim majority states in the East and the West being grouped into regions were the two Muslim demands. If those had been accepted there would have no partition in 1947 and all the faiths and castes would have had their fair share in power. But that meant the Hindus would have got only 15% in contrast with the Muslims who were 25% of the population and the Bahujan (i.e. native majority who are Untouchables) would have been the largest group in the parliament. The Hindus preferred partition over accepting Separate Electorate to give fair share in power to all faiths and castes. The irony is they have the temerity to blame the Muslims and Mr. Jinnah for the partition and continue to do so. The fact is that the Hindu leaders of the Congress Party forced the partition by rejecting every fair formula for sharing power. After having tricked the Untouchables into accepting Joint Electorate with them, they hoped to rule over India in perpetuity.

The Seminar was addressed by Mr. V.T. Rajshekar, Editor of *Dalit Voice*, Bangalore,

who explained how the dominance of the Brahmin has been challenged by Bahujan. He said that by his thesis that the best way to fight discrimination is to strengthen the caste identity, has helped the castes to consolidate their vote banks to help their own kin to win elections. The result is that the Bahujan parties have won power in several states in India. The rejection of the fair system of Separate Electorate has backfired on the Brahmin. He is looking for new ways to restore its grip over power. The new method is to embrace Communism. They have organized Communist parties and groups all over India. They have captured power in West Bengal and Kerala through elections but in most other areas they operate as terrorist groups under the title of Naxalites or Maoists. The landlords in much of rural India are Thakurs—a caste one level below the Brahmin—and the farm labour is from Untouchable castes. The humiliation of the caste system piled upon exploitation by forced or unpaid labour makes rural India a hell hole. In this charged environment, the Brahmin cadres have started their Naxalite Movement. Given a gun the irate labourers shoot and kill the land lord and end up in prison or on the gallows; the Brahmin secures confirmation as “revolutionary leader”. The Brahmin schemes are so complex and diabolical that it is hard to fathom the truth. But the low castes in India are waking up, says Mr. Rajshekar. They can now act wisely and devise a new polity that recognizes rather than denies the multiplicity of India’s faiths, castes and states to give them their due and obtain internal harmony and peace with all the neighbours.

Three more papers were read at the Seminar. Brigadier © Usman Khalid, Director of Lisa, said that the system of Separate Electorate is necessary for India to give justice to minority faiths (like in Pakistan)—Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. But the decision is for the majority to make. They may prefer to extend the protection of Separate Electorate to the top 5% high castes instead. As for the Sikhs in the Punjab, the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, and the tribal peoples of Assam, they are separate nations who have struggled for freedom for many decades; they should be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination. Professor Gurtej Singh, explained how “reservation” of seats in education and employment has not provided justice to the oppressed low castes but has made them subject of hate further isolating them. He proposed that reservation should be extended to all faith communities and all castes.

Dr. Aulakh in his presidential address at the end exposed the truth about India, which practises the worst form of apartheid under minority rule. The Brahmin keeps inventing new gimmicks and tricks to maintain his hold over power. He made a powerful case for a sovereign state for the Sikh nation in the Punjab which has been endorsed by the resolutions of Sarbat Khalsa and reinforced by the massacre of the Sikhs in the Punjab and other parts of India in the wake of the assault and desecration of Durbur Sahib in 1984. He supported the struggle for freedom of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, of Nagas and other peoples of Assam.

The seminar was followed by a ceremony for “Lisa Book Award” given every year to a book by an author from South Asia that has made a difference. The award in 2006 was given to “Tandev of the Centaur—Sikhs and Indian Secularism” by Professor Gurtej Singh. It was presented to him by the winner of the same award last year—Mr. V.T. Rajshekar. The citation read:

“This book shows that the ‘freedom struggle’ of India was in fact a struggle for succession to hegemony. The British had repeat-

edly said they were preparing India for self rule and would leave once the job was done. The Muslims took notice and declared that the Brahmin not the British were their main adversary. Since the Muslims were concentrated on the periphery and were sparse in numbers in the rest of India, they wanted autonomous Muslim majority regions and Separate Electorate. This would have protected the rights of all faiths and castes. They demanded Pakistan after failing in every attempt to get their due share in power by constitutional guarantees prior to Independence. The effort of the Hindu leadership was to try and build a majority around the idea of ‘Secularism’ and ‘Joint Electorate’. Under the Poona Pact of 1932, the Bahujan compromised their identity when they agreed to be included on the electoral rolls with the Hindus.

“The Sikhs believed that the British would not leave until thrown out and thus played into the hands of the Hindus to become the vanguard of the armed struggle against the British making thus making the most sacrifices. The Sikhs were promised their separate state; that was a false promise they call ‘Raj Neeti’. All those who trusted M.K. Gandhi and relied on Congress ‘promises’ now feel betrayed. The book reveals that India is founded on a polity of paranoia; it is united only in fear and hate. The Hindu leaders feared the Muslim and wanted the partition even more than the Muslims. After the Muslim majority left and went to Pakistan the Sikhs are seen by them as a threat. The wanton use of force against them for a decade in the wake of the assault on Durbur Sahib in 1984, the Sikh Nation virtually stands expelled from the Indian Union. A sovereign Sikh state is only a matter of time. This has become inevitable due to the clarity of vision of scholar leaders like Sirdar Gurtej Singh.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN EULER

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Euler, a Vietnam veteran, retired U.S. marine, and tireless public servant.

After retiring as the Deputy Director of the Torts Branch, Civil Division of the Department of Justice, John thought he was finished working for the Federal Government. However, in January of 2004, John’s sense of duty compelled him to volunteer for 6 months in Iraq as Director of International Counsel. His 26 years of experience with the Department of Justice and his extensive legal career gave him all the tools necessary to help the new Iraqi Government build a new legal system from the ground up. John faced many challenges in Iraq, including the fact that all legal records were destroyed by war. Despite the difficult task, John helped the Iraqi Government to build an entirely new court system and to defend itself in over 70 international cases. His service has helped the Iraqis to live in a society operating under the rule of law, a protection that many Americans take for granted.

John’s strong passion for civil service has again called him to Iraq. He is currently serving as the Deputy Legal Counsel for the U.S. Department of State. In this new position, John advises the United States Embassy in Iraq on issues relating to the new Iraqi Government. His experience in creating the Iraqi

legal system makes his counsel invaluable to the embassy’s team.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John Euler for his extensive service to the United States and for his dedication to the rebuilding of the Iraqi Government. His bravery and support during these trying times serve as a model for us all. I thank him for his perseverance and his service.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER-EASTER SEAL

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the House’s attention today to recognize the mission of the Opportunity Center-Easter Seal located in Anniston, AL. On September 6, 2006, the Opportunity Center will reach a 50-year milestone for having served people with disabilities in and around Calhoun County.

The Opportunity Center acts as a rehabilitation, training and employment facility designed to aid disabled people to achieve their highest potential. The mission is important, and should be commended for helping rehabilitate those who have been disabled from birth and those who have become disabled. The Opportunity Center-Easter Seal seeks to help those with barriers to employment maximize their employment potential, an important resource for many across East Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a proud achievement for the Opportunity Center. I congratulate those who built and have maintained this fine facility, and thank the House for its attention to this important matter today.

#### HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career contributions of Mr. Tim Friedman, Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom and a public servant of the highest degree. For 30 years, Mr. Friedman has served our country in some capacity within the walls of Congress and he has served these years with dignity and decorum.

As Mr. Friedman prepares to retire, I congratulate him and wish him the best. He has certainly earned the opportunity to kick up his heels, enjoy some time with his wife, and play a few rounds of golf. But as a Member of Congress, I must say that it is sad to see him go. For 20 years, he has been a fixture in the Cloakroom—an institution as significant as the Cloakroom itself.

Mr. Friedman will be missed, but his work ethic will continue on, through his co-workers who admire him, through the many pages who have looked to him for guidance over the years and through the Democratic Members of Congress themselves.

I thank Mr. Friedman for his service and his commitment to the Democratic Cloakroom.

The qualities he embodies—loyalty, trustworthiness, reliability—are getting harder and harder to find nowadays. May God bless this admirable man and his family as he begins this next chapter.

DESIGNATING THE NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AS AMERICA'S NATIONAL NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Senate Concurrent Resolution 60, a resolution sponsored by my friend Senator TALENT, and agreed to by this body yesterday, that designates the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. It was my pleasure to work with Chairman POMBO and the Resources Committee to bring this important resolution to the floor, and I thank the Chairman for his help and friendship.

Those of us familiar with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum already think of it as America's museum, but the passage of this resolution makes that distinction official.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was founded in 1990, and for its first four years of existence operated out of a one room office in the historic 18th and Vine District of Kansas City. Today it is a 10,000 square foot Museum, filled with historic memorabilia, sculptures, photographs, and other exhibits that pay tribute to some of baseball's greatest pioneers.

It is fitting that the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is in Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. Speaker, because the Negro Leagues were officially organized in Kansas City during a meeting in 1920. Kansas City was also the home of the Negro Leagues' longest-running franchise—the Kansas City Monarchs—which sent more Negro Leagues players to Major League Baseball than any other Negro Leagues franchise.

From 1920 until the closure of the last teams in the early 1960s, countless greats excelled at America's pastime in the Negro Leagues, including Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, James "Cool Papa" Bell, Ernie Banks, Hank Aaron, Jackie Robinson, and of course Mr. Speaker, John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil.

Mr. O'Neil is the current Chairman of the Board of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and continues to work tirelessly at age 94. He has enjoyed an unparalleled career as a player, scout, manager, coach, and ambassador for baseball since 1937, and Buck O'Neil also selflessly interrupted his stellar professional baseball career to serve our country during World War II in the United States Navy.

It is ironic that this resolution came before the House for consideration a few days before Hall of Fame weekend in Cooperstown, New York. Several Negro Leagues players will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this weekend, but Buck O'Neil is tragically not among them. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no one more quali-

fied for induction into the Hall of Fame than Buck O'Neil, but sadly that will not happen this weekend.

So, we must console ourselves in the knowledge that Buck O'Neil's passion—the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum—is granted official recognition by our nation with yesterday's passage of this concurrent resolution. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important measure, and I urge them to come to Kansas City and visit America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation as to why I voted in favor of overriding the Presidential veto of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

On August 9, 2001, President Bush announced that he would only allow federal funding for experiments involving stem cells already derived from embryos but not for research that would cause the destruction of further embryos. I am pleased that the President did not issue a full ban on federal funding of stem cell research, but I am very concerned that this restriction does not offer researchers the quality and diversity they will need to conduct full and complete research on these diseases. In fact, the National Institutes of Health recently reported that under current federal policy only about 19 stem cell lines are available to researchers, some of which are contaminated or otherwise unusable.

On May 24, 2005, the House passed H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005, which expands the current federal policy on embryonic stem cell research by allowing federal funding on stem cell lines derived after August 9, 2001. In addition, the House also passed H.R. 2520, legislation to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Inventory and authorize \$15 million annually to collect 150,000 high quality cord blood stem cell units for research or transplantation. I voted in favor of both measures. Therefore, I voted today to override the President's veto of H.R. 810 because I believe the potential to improve lives with stem cell research is too great to dismiss. The bipartisan support for this measure is also indicative of the importance of stem cell research.

Recent scientific research has suggested that embryonic stem cells hold immense potential to successfully treat many serious medical conditions including diabetes, Parkinson's Disease and cancer. Scientists believe the knowledge obtained from additional human embryonic stem cell studies could lead to the development of techniques to generate cells that would replace damaged tissues for a variety of conditions. H.R. 810 required that these cells would be acquired, using stringent guidelines established by the National Institutes of Health, NIH, from fertility clinic embryos, already in existence, that would otherwise be discarded. Why waste such biological material when the potential human health and scientific benefits of stem cell research are staggering in their promise?

Federal support of stem cell research will allow American scientists to harness this groundbreaking technology to potentially save many lives and improve the quality of others. In addition, the oversight which will come with broad federal support will result in better and more ethically controlled research in the field than if funding was from private sources alone.

“GOING TO HAVE TO SELL MY HOUSE . . . OR DIE”: DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF MEDICARE PART D

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Medicare Part D continues to bring problems for our Nation's seniors. As more and more reach the “doughnut hole,” seniors are confronted with dramatic, no-win choices. I offer my colleagues a recent article in the San Diego Union-Tribune—“Going to Have to Sell My House . . . or Die.” It's past time to start over with the prescription drug benefit!

[From the San Diego Union-Tribune, July 16, 2006]

GOING TO HAVE TO SELL MY HOUSE ... OR DIE  
(By Keith Darcé)

Frank Harrison says he's facing a choice between his health and his house.

When the Spring Valley retiree hit a coverage cap in his federal prescription drug plan in early June, his monthly medicine costs skyrocketed from about \$250 to about \$1,800, largely because of two expensive immune suppression drugs that he has taken since a kidney transplant six years ago.

The 62-year-old former computer company operations manager, whose main income comes from Social Security disability benefits, stopped taking one of the drugs, which cost about \$575 a month, so that he could keep paying his \$750 mortgage payment.

“What it boils down to pretty soon is that I'm going to have to sell my house. It's either that or die,” he said.

Harrison is among the 3.4 million seniors and disabled Americans who have begun to fall into a gap in Medicare Part D coverage. They must pay the full price for drugs after they've spent \$2,250 in co-payments and until their out-of-pocket costs reach \$5,100 for the year.

Those in the so-called “doughnut hole” are likely to cut back on medicines to save money even if doing so jeopardizes their health, according to some research.

“Some are being caught totally unaware,” said Jennifer Duncan, who manages the San Diego Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program.

HICAP, which assists Medicare beneficiaries, has fielded calls in recent weeks from about 20 Part D enrollees who've either hit the coverage gap or are nearing it. Medicare is the government's health insurance program for those 65 and older and the disabled.

The gap is the latest headache to confront those who thought that signing up for a Part D plan would lower their costs for expensive medications. Early glitches blocked some from getting prescriptions because their names didn't appear in the computer systems of the private companies selected to operate the plans. Others tried to buy drugs only to learn at the pharmacy counter that the medicines weren't covered by their plans.

Still, several surveys have indicated that most participants are satisfied with the Part D program and have saved money during its first six months.

Congress created the Part D gap when lawmakers created the drug insurance program in 2003. The measure was added to reduce the program's overall cost. Lawmakers reasoned that only a tiny portion of Part D participants would reach the gap and most would be without coverage only for a short period.

Many of the 22.7 million people in the program will avoid the coverage gap, according to a recent report by accounting and consulting firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers. They have private supplemental insurance, are enrolled in a higher-priced Part D plan that doesn't cap benefits, have incomes low enough to qualify for exemptions or simply won't purchase enough drugs to reach the cap before calculations start over on Jan. 1.

Those falling into the gap are largely middle-class seniors who aren't poor enough to qualify for Medicaid—the federal health insurance for the poor known as Medicaid outside California—or they are wealthy enough to afford higher-priced Part D plans that have no coverage caps.

People who fall into the doughnut hole don't pay the full retail price for drugs, said Peter Ashkenaz, spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Washington, D.C. They pay the discounted price paid by their Part D plan operator—about 20 percent below retail prices, he said. "I think people tend to forget that piece of it."

But halfway through the first year of the prescription drug program, the San Diego HICAP is fielding calls from frightened seniors whose benefits are about to run out, Duncan said.

"'Doughnut hole' is a lousy term. It's more like an abyss," she said. "It's a soft, funny way for saying you may not be able to pay your rent or eat this month because you're going to have to pay for all of your medicines."

One recent call was from a paraplegic who takes high doses of the pain-killer morphine that cost \$1,500 a month. Another caller takes \$10,000 worth of medicine each month to prevent his body from rejecting a transplanted lung.

Even beneficiaries facing less dire circumstances could have trouble dealing with the gap.

An overwhelming majority of Medicare recipients suffer from chronic diseases, such as hypertension and diabetes, said Kenneth Thorpe, chairman of the Health Policy and Management Department at Emory University in Atlanta.

More often than not, they also are being treated and medicated for multiple conditions, he said. "These are very expensive patients."

When their drug coverage runs out, even temporarily, they are likely to stop taking some or all of their medications, Thorpe said.

That's what Kaiser Permanente researcher John Hsu found when he studied about 200,000 Medicare beneficiaries in 2003 who participated in a more limited government prescription drug program that predated Part D. The results, published in the June 1 edition of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, found that people whose drug benefits were capped at \$1,000 a year had higher rates of emergency room visits, hospitalization and death than those with unlimited coverage.

Hsu attributed the increases to people ending drug treatments once the insurance cap was reached. The cost for additional medical care offset the lower drug cost savings created by the cap, he reported.

When Harrison's coverage ended in early June, the maker of one of his immune sup-

pression drugs put him on a program that delivered the medication for free. But he wasn't offered the same deal from the maker of the other medication, and his \$1,300 monthly income is too high for him to qualify for the doughnut hole exemption available through Medi-Cal. He's hoping his doctors will provide an answer—perhaps an alternative drug available at a discount or for free from a manufacturer—when he goes in for a check-up in a few weeks.

Wendell Ott, 74, of San Diego, doesn't expect to hit the cap until September, but already he's considering cutting back on his eight medications.

"It's going to cost me a tremendous amount of money for the last part of the year," said Ott, who takes medicines for high blood pressure, an enlarged prostate and chronic bronchitis. "Let's face it, I'm not wealthy."

While many people were aware they might face a gap in coverage when they signed up for a Part D plan, it's clear some haven't prepared for it, said Michael Negrete, vice president of clinical programs for the California Pharmacists Association.

"Most people haven't saved money to deal with the doughnut hole," he said.

Once in the gap, people create a new problem for themselves if they try to save money by purchasing cheaper drugs outside their Part D program, Negrete said.

"When they get drugs outside of Part D, that doesn't go to the credit they need to get out of the (gap)," he said. "If they are getting their medicines from Canada or from a discount drug service, they will never get out of the doughnut hole."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in Colorado and not present for three recorded votes on Monday, July 24, 2006.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall 394, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1496, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall 395, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 203, the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall 396, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5534, to establish a grant program whereby moneys collected from violations of the corporate average fuel economy program are used to expand infrastructure necessary to increase the availability of alternative fuels—I would have voted "yes."

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN B. DEAN

### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge John B. Dean, Chief of Police of the Waterford Police Depart-

ment, upon his retirement from a distinguished career in public service.

From a young age, Chief Dean dedicated his life to protecting the citizens of Michigan. At age 15, he enrolled as a cadet in the Waterford Police Department before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Following his military service, Chief Dean first joined the Detroit Police Department before returning to Waterford in 1975, where he continued his career in law enforcement. Over the next three decades, Chief Dean advanced through the ranks of the Waterford Police Department, eventually serving as a Patrol Officer, Undercover Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Youth Liaison Officer, Patrol Lieutenant, and Detective Bureau Commander. In January of 2000, he was promoted to Chief of Police.

A Central Michigan University alumnus and graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, Chief Dean also served on the Police and Fire Pension Board of Waterford Township, Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America, Board of Directors of the Oakland County Chiefs of Police, the State Police Advisory Board, and as Treasurer of the Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems. For his tireless service to the community, Chief Dean has been recognized with the Officer of the Year Award; the Medal for Bravery; the Meritorious Service Award; and was named Waterford Employee of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, for 31 years, Chief John B. Dean has unwaveringly upheld his oath to protect and defend the citizens of Michigan. As he enters the next phase of his life, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, honor, and courage. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Dean upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and our country.

#### HONORING CORONER HUEY MACK, SR.

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Huey Mack, Sr. for his accomplishments and dedication to Baldwin County, Alabama, where he served for many years as Baldwin County Coroner.

Huey Mack was born on December 20, 1937, in McCalla, Alabama, and is a native of Escambia County. He attended the University of Alabama and received a degree in mortuary science at the Gupton Jones Institute in Dallas, Texas. In 1982, he was appointed by Alabama Governor George Wallace to fill an unexpired term as Baldwin County Coroner. Huey Mack will retire in January 2007, from the position he has held for the past 28 years.

Among his many contributions, Huey Mack has played a crucial role in passing legislation that creates educational requirements for the office of coroner. He also served as Vice President of the Funeral Director Association, made significant contributions with his involvement with the Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, served as President of the Alabama Coroner's Association for 7 years, and is a member of the Rotary Club. Huey Mack and his wife, Jean, have two children, Linda and Huey, Jr. Huey Mack, Jr. was recently elected Sheriff of Baldwin County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on his many years of public service. I know his wife, his family and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years to Baldwin County.

INTRODUCING THE MINORITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM OF 2006

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Minority Entrepreneurship & Innovation Pilot Program of 2006, a bill that I am introducing as a companion to S. 2586, sponsored by Senator John Kerry. This bill is designed to address our nation's growing economic disparities through the promotion of business development and entrepreneurship in minority communities.

Economic indicators show that today, the average income for African Americans is just 62 percent that of whites. More than 40 years after the last of the Jim Crow laws was repealed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the economic value of blacks is still nearly three-fifths that of whites—a statistic that clearly indicates that the vestiges of slavery are enduring.

This race-based "wealth gap" is simply unacceptable. And African Americans are not the only minority group suffering from this disparity. The average incomes of Native Americans and Latinos are similarly unbalanced, with those communities earning 65 and 74 percent of the income of whites respectively.

But the news is not all bad. The National Urban League, in its 2006 "State of Black America Report," indicated that there may be a silver lining to this cloud. The prevalence of black-owned businesses has been on the upswing, revealing a difference of 2.5 to 1 (White Businesses to African-American Businesses), as compared with 3 to 1 a few years ago.

As many of my colleagues know, minority-owned businesses provide real opportunity for individuals, families and communities. By supporting their growth, we can begin to reverse the increasing "wealth gap" for good, leading to greater economic independence for minorities. This result will multiply itself and in the process lay the foundation for closing other socio-economic gaps—gaps that have created an environment for persistent economic failure in many of these communities.

That is why I am introducing the Minority Entrepreneurship and Innovation Pilot Program of 2006. This legislation would establish a \$24 million, two-year pilot program to promote small business development in colleges and universities that serve African American, Native American and Latino communities.

Through \$1 million grants, the institutions would provide students in highly-skilled fields such as engineering, manufacturing and science with the tools they need to start their own businesses. The bill would also allow institutions to establish Small Business Development Centers to provide counseling, capacity building and niche market development services.

A great legacy of the American Dream has been the opportunity for ordinary citizens to improve their livelihoods by starting their own business. The Minority Entrepreneurship and Innovation Pilot Program of 2006 would give minority communities a chance to share in this attainable dream.

I want to thank the original cosponsors who have joined with me in introducing this important bill, Representatives BENNIE THOMPSON, GRACE NAPOLITANO, SANFORD BISHOP, ALBERT WYNN, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, BOBBY SCOTT, MAJOR OWENS, BENJAMIN CARDIN, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, BOBBY RUSH, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, RAUL GRIJALVA, JOHN CONYERS, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, ALLEN BOYD, MIKE ROSS, DANNY DAVIS, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, CAROLYN KILPATRICK, JOE BACA, DAVID SCOTT, ALBERT WYNN, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, HILDA SOLIS, DONALD PAYNE, BARBARA LEE, C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, SAM FARR and JAMES CLYBURN.

I ask the rest of my colleagues to please join us in helping to reverse the "wealth gap" by supporting this legislation.

IN SUPPORT OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF KOSOVO

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in many years, two high-ranking delegations—one representing Serbia, the other the Serbian province of Kosovo—met in Vienna, Austria to discuss the future political status of Kosovo, which has been administered by the United Nations since 1999. The Vienna meeting was the first time that the Serbian President and Prime Minister met with their political counterparts from Kosovo.

Both sides presented and explained their position on Kosovo's future political status. The Serbian delegation presented a practical plan for the highest possible autonomy for Kosovo inside Serbia's borders, while Kosovo's leaders presented their plan for independence.

Although the parties reached no agreement, the Vienna meeting was very positive, and I believe it should be commended. It allowed both sides to present their platforms in a constructive and diplomatic manner, and provided the international community with strong assurances that events in the Balkans can be solved in a peaceful and civilized way.

Serbia proved once again that is ready to seek a final solution for Kosovo based on the tenets of territorial integrity, international law and regional stability. Serbia's position highlighted the necessity to broker a final agreement that will keep democracy and reform in Serbia intact.

An imposed solution for Kosovo would be a dangerous precedent and may serve as the fatal blow for the economic and political processes in Serbia. There is a slim but very real possibility that radical elements in Serbian politics would seize power in Belgrade if Kosovo is granted independence from the UN, without ironclad-guarantees for Kosovo's Serb popu-

lation and the firm commitment to protect Serbian historical, cultural and religious sites in Kosovo.

Serbia is a new country with new leadership. It is a country led by reformers, like President Boris Tadic, who helped topple Slobodan Milosevic from power and had the fortitude to transfer him to the Hague Tribunal to answer for his crimes against humanity.

This new Serbia is a thriving, free market democracy, based on transparency, the rule of law and the protection of human rights. Serbia is a member of international organizations, and it is on the path toward membership in the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Serbia of today is working with the United States to spread democracy and freedom and now the United States has the unique opportunity to stand with its democratic allies in Serbia, and to work to advance a mutually acceptable solution to the future political status of Kosovo; one which won't leave Serbia and its fragile democracy in tatters,

The mishandling of Kosovo's final political status might reverse these advances in Serbia and endanger a region just recovering from dictatorship, ethnic strife, isolation and war.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELFARE REFORM

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 10th anniversary of President Clinton's historic welfare reform initiative. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 fundamentally transformed our nation's welfare system and provided a clear direction for the future of this important program.

I am proud to have played an active role in the passage of this legislation during my time in the White House. If it were not for President Clinton's vision, welfare reform would never have gained the bipartisan support that was required. President Clinton vowed to end welfare as we know it and he succeeded in forming a system that both rewarded and required work.

In Illinois alone, 217,000 families worked their way off of TANF and into the workforce. President Clinton realized that the best job training was an actual job.

We also realized that jobs came along with new challenges for welfare recipients. Therefore we assisted recipients in finding child care and instituted transitional medical assistance for families leaving the welfare rolls.

The greatest accomplishment of welfare reform was connecting a generation of children with a culture of work. Many children who would have grown up in a household with non-working parents, have internalized the value of work and learned how to build a better future for themselves and their families.

Thanks to welfare reform, more than 3 million children rose above the poverty line between 1996 and 2000. Earnings of the poorest people in our country rose significantly.

However, some of the progress we made has been reversed. Between 2001 and 2005, 5 million Americans fell below the poverty line, including 1.5 million children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend those in Congress that worked to pass this legislation in 1996, and I look forward to working with them to ensure that what we accomplished in 1996 is not undone. I urge my colleagues to build on the success of the past with a commitment to ensuring the future success of welfare reform.

### HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

SPEECH OF

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 125, expressing Congressional support for "Hire-A-Veteran Week," and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation calling upon employers to increase employment of men and women who have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces.

As a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the House Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, I know of the challenges awaiting our servicemembers when transitioning from military service to the civilian workforce. While this resolution will not solve the problems of unemployment within the veterans community, it is a strong message that we as Members of Congress should send to anyone in a position to hire qualified veterans.

Having military veterans in both my El Paso, TX and Washington, DC offices, I know of the exceptional training the Armed Forces provides our servicemembers, and wholeheartedly encourage any employer to consider hiring those veterans who have served our country.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting our nation's veterans by voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 125.

### INTRODUCING THE AMERICARE HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2006

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the AmeriCare Health Insurance Act of 2006. I am joined by the AFL-CIO, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Nurses Association, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Consumers' Union, Families USA, SEIU, the Universal Health Care Action Network, and the National Association of Community Health Centers in supporting this common sense solution to achieve universal health insurance coverage.

In my tenure in the House, I have been involved in many discussions about how to reform our health system. These debates tend to occur every 10 to 15 years when health costs rise to a level that attracts our attention. Unfortunately, the minor tweaks and threats of reform we have made in the past have not resulted in lasting change. As a result, we are spending more—and getting less—than any industrialized nation.

If history is any guide, we are nearing yet another health reform discussion in this coun-

try. This time, we need to get it right. To that end I offer AmeriCare—a practical proposal to ensure that everyone has affordable health insurance.

AmeriCare is based on the principles that the U.S. health system should cover everyone, be affordable, and be meaningful.

Eighty percent of the people who file for bankruptcy because of medical bills have health insurance, but their benefits do not meet their needs. Policies that are unaffordable, that discourage people from seeking care, or that do not cover necessary benefits are empty solutions.

AmeriCare builds on what works—both employer coverage and Medicare—in an effort to dramatically expand coverage with minimal disruption to the current system. It addresses the broader issues in our health system overall, and provides an important marker for a renewed discussion on health reform.

For the past four decades since it was enacted, the stability and affordability of Medicare have helped millions of seniors and people with disabilities live longer, healthier lives. Because of Medicare, families have been able to save for their children's education rather than having to pay for their parents' health care.

Since the program began, Medicare's per capita costs have grown at a slower rate than private health insurance or the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

Providers, too, have benefited from Medicare. Without Medicare as a consistent payer, providers would not be able to offer the top quality care they deliver today. Indeed, uncompensated care for people who are uninsured or underinsured is pushing some providers toward the breaking point. Meaningful coverage for all makes good business sense for providers.

AmeriCare also recognizes the important role that job-based benefits play in our current health system. Under AmeriCare, people would continue to obtain health coverage through their employer—as most of us currently do—or they would be covered under the new AmeriCare system. Expanding insurance coverage to all will end the cost shifting that results from the high number of uninsured we have today. This could reduce premiums for job-based insurance by as much as \$1,000 for family coverage, according to the Institute of Medicine.

Expanding coverage to all will also strengthen the economy and improve our competitiveness. General Motors recently admitted it spends more on health care than on steel; Starbucks spends more on health insurance than on coffee. The need to address health reform is more urgent than ever before.

AmeriCare is a sensible solution for our Nation's employers—many of whom are already meeting the challenge of providing coverage for their employees. I plan to reach out to the business community to begin a dialogue about how we might move forward with AmeriCare.

AmeriCare creates a new Title XXII in the Social Security Act. It uses Medicare's existing administrative infrastructure, but improves upon Medicare's benefits to address some of the current gaps in coverage, such as mental health parity, coverage for children, and family planning and pregnancy-related services for women. State Medicaid programs would remain responsible for long-term care, but AmeriCare would now cover low-income chil-

dren, women, and others who currently receive non-long term care services under Medicaid.

AmeriCare is financed through premiums, paid 20 percent by individuals and families and 80 percent by employers, general revenues, and state funds. People with incomes under 200 percent of poverty would be fully subsidized, and premiums and cost-sharing would be phased in for those with incomes between 200–300 percent of poverty.

There is also a limitation on out-of-pocket spending to ensure that no one spends a disproportionate share of their income on health care. Employers could continue to offer their own coverage, so long as it is equivalent to AmeriCare. Payment of premiums would be reconciled at the annual tax filing in April.

Everyone in the room should be aware that there is an effort underway to reform our health system, but not in the way we would like. Republicans have been pursuing stealth reform for the past decade in their dogged determination to dismantle the employer-based system and force everyone into high deductible health plans, regardless of whether they open or benefit from a Health Savings Account.

Their rhetoric makes it sound like you "own" your health care. But what they really mean is that you are on your own. It's not just that you have to fend for yourself when purchasing health care, it's that for most people—especially the currently uninsured—the Health Savings Account is purely theoretical. Employers don't have to contribute to these accounts, and most don't.

The Republican agenda expands the class of people who are underinsured, putting both patients and providers at greater risk. More and more doctors and hospitals are being forced to act as bill collectors rather than care providers, and patients are saddled with debt and even bankruptcy because their insurance benefits are inadequate. For example, many high deductible policies do not cover maternity benefits. The situation will only get worse if we continue to allow high-deductible health plans to take hold.

Without the security of a universal health plan that covers everyone, each of us is at risk. For years we have accepted that people fall through the cracks in our health system. No parent should ever have to deny their child a lifesaving treatment because they cannot afford the cost. No family should ever lose a parent because their condition was treated too late.

We need a strong alternative vision for health reform. That is why I am putting AmeriCare forward today. This proposal promotes shared risk and responsibility, not individual risk and greater fragmentation. AmeriCare offers an alternative vision that is simple and straightforward, fair and manageable.

Our Nation is at a crossroads. Our legacy should be a future where our children are not saddled with debt, where they do not fear financial ruin due to an illness. Whether we build a healthy future for our children or not depends upon the decisions we make today. True compassion means offering real solutions, not empty promises.

Working together, applying common sense approaches that build on what works, we can ensure that no-one risks the loss of insurance coverage. All we need is the will to do it.

As we edge closer to our next discussion on health reform, we need to ask, is medical care a civic and social right like police and fire services, education, and environmental protection?

Or is health care “you’re on your own?”

This decision must be made. I hope I can count on my colleagues and our endorsing organizations to advance a shared vision for health reform by adopting AmeriCare.

Attached is a short summary of AmeriCare. More can be found on my website at [www.house.gov/stark](http://www.house.gov/stark).

AMERICARE HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006—BILL  
SUMMARY

Overview: The AmeriCare Health Care Act (“AmeriCare”) is a practical proposal to ensure that everyone has health coverage in our country. It builds on what works in today’s health care system to provide simple, affordable, reliable health insurance. People would continue to obtain health coverage through their employer or they would be covered under the new AmeriCare system, modeled on Medicare.

Using the administrative efficiencies within Medicare and building on the existing coverage people receive through their jobs today, we can create an affordable, efficient, and stable universal health care system in America—and guarantee access to medical innovation and the world’s most advanced providers and facilities.

Benefits: All residents of the U.S. and its territories are eligible to receive benefits through AmeriCare. The practical AmeriCare benefits package is tailored to meet the needs of working people and their families, including: preventive services; physician services; hospital services; maternity coverage; prescription medications; mental health services; affordable cost sharing and a realistic limit on out-of-pocket costs.

AmeriCare provides additional benefits for children under age 24 and people with modest income. Supplemental benefits could be offered by employers or purchased through private insurance companies. It also improves Medicare’s existing benefit structure to conform with AmeriCare, providing streamlined cost-sharing and lower drug prices—without a donut hole.

Financing: AmeriCare is financed through contributions from employers, individuals, and states, all of whom pay into our current health care system. Unlike today’s system, however, AmeriCare will save billions of dollars by utilizing Medicare’s highly efficient administrative infrastructure that operates on a 2% margin. Requiring the Secretary to negotiate with the pharmaceutical industry for reasonable prices and expanding the use of health information technology in the clinical setting will achieve additional savings. The efficiencies gained from these steps will keep AmeriCare’s premiums affordable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2006, I mistakenly voted “no” on rollcall No. 384. I intended to vote in support of Mr. WATT’s amendment to preserve the authority of the United States Supreme Court to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, the Pledge of Allegiance, as defined in 4 U.S.C. section 4, or its recitation.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH MARICA  
CLEMONTS

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Deborah Marica Clemonts one of my most deserving constituents who is being honored as Small Business Owner of the Year by the Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Deborah Clemonts is a small business owner in Halifax County who owns a beauty shop, barber shop, restaurant and has held the food service contract for Halifax Community College and the local community Adult Day Care for the past 3 years. Many of the special events that I have held in my Weldon Congressional Office have been catered by Deborah so I know first hand of her impressive, conscientious, professional work.

With all of the activity associated with managing these businesses, Deborah still finds the time to dedicate to the youth of First Baptist Church in Weldon, North Carolina, where the dynamic Reverend Quientrell Burrell is the pastor. Deborah is responsible for all of the youth-related activities of the church which include the Youth Choir, Junior Usher Board and the First Baptist Church Praise Dancers. I have learned that any evening of the week you can see Deborah driving around in the First Baptist Church van picking up and dropping off children or taking them to the Pizza Hut treating them to a pizza before turning them back over to their parents. Deborah is compassionate about the community youth and is trying to do her part in assisting in their growth as grounded, productive citizens. Mr. Speaker, I have learned that the youth have a special affection for Deborah such that they often willingly confide in her and look to her for advice and counsel with many of the problems that they are forced to confront daily. Whenever there is an opportunity, Deborah hires some of the youth to assist her with restaurant-related activities and takes every opportunity to mentor them about work ethic, professionalism and the importance of putting their best foot forward.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Clemonts family well and I know that Deborah’s father, Reverend James Clemonts would be so proud of this honor bestowed upon her by the Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce. I know that none of what Deborah has accomplished was easy. But in spite of the many obstacles, Deborah pressed on and I wish her continued success. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to one of the pillars in the First Congressional District, Ms. Deborah Marica Clemonts.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF  
CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

SPEECH OF

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and accomplishments of our recently-passed colleague Thomas Manton.

Tom Manton’s life epitomized the American dream. Born to Irish immigrants in 1932, he worked to put himself through college and law school and eventually rose to become one of the most influential politicians in New York City.

After attending Catholic school in Queens and Brooklyn, Tom enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving from 1951 to 1953. He went on to graduate from St. Johns University in 1958 and earned his law degree there in 1962. In addition to his service defending our country in the armed forces, Tom put his life on the line protecting the citizens of New York in the police force from 1955 to 1960.

After serving on the New York City Council from 1970 to 1984, Tom was elected to Congress. He served proudly and responsibly for seven terms in the House of Representatives, during which he also became Chair of the Queens Democratic Party.

In his work with the Queens Democrats, he brought those of all different racial and ethnic backgrounds into the political fold. Although he followed the tradition of Irish Catholic influence in New York City politics, he recruited candidates of all ethnic backgrounds to truly represent the diversity that exists throughout Queens on all levels of government.

It is a testament to the respect Tom Manton earned and to the counsel he provided that during the 1992 Presidential campaign, then Governor Bill Clinton visited the Queens Democratic Party Headquarters in Forest Hills to speak with Tom. Additionally, Tom advised Mayor Michael Bloomberg during his initial city-wide campaign in 2001.

On a personal note, I will miss the plain-spoken style of Tom Manton. When I first came to Congress in 1989, Tom provided me with a bevy of candid advice. During our time in Congress together, I considered him a close advisor, was honored to call him my colleague, and more importantly, always valued our friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the family of Thomas Manton and offering condolences to all those who have benefited from his service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 24, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 394, 395 and 396. The votes I missed included motions to suspend the rules and pass the Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005 (S. 1496), the National Heritage Areas Act of 2005 (S. 203) and a bill to establish a grant program whereby moneys collected from violations of the corporate average fuel economy program are used to expand infrastructure necessary to increase the availability of alternative fuels (H.R. 5534).

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall Nos. 394, 395 and 396.

CONGRATULATING JOHN M. CHRISTENSEN, RACHEL L. HAMAKER, RYAN R. INGRAHAM, KATHERINE L. KING, DAVID M. MATHIEU, FREDERICK W. ROWELL, CHRISTOPHER D. SAVELL, AND HOWARD R. WALKER FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor John M. Christensen, Rachel L. Hamaker, Ryan R. Ingraham, Katherine L. King, David M. Mathieu, Frederick W. Rowell, Christopher D. Savell, and Howard R. Walker for recently being named recipients of the National Merit Scholarship.

These students, all from Alabama, were first named semifinalists by their outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, an exam taken by approximately 1.3 million freshman, sophomore, and junior high school students. They then qualified for the National Merit Scholarship as a result of their high academic performance in rigorous college preparatory coursework, high scores on their college entrance exams, and the recommendation of their high school principal.

John M. Christensen is a graduate of Andalusia High School and plans to attend the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Rachel L. Hamaker, a graduate of Alabama School of Mathematics and Science, will attend Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas.

Ryan R. Ingraham graduated from St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile and will attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Katherine L. King of Fairhope High School will attend Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

David M. Mathieu, a graduate of T. R. Miller High School in Brewton, will attend the University of Alabama in the fall.

Frederick W. Rowell of Murphy High School in Mobile will attend the University of Alabama.

Christopher D. Savell is a graduate of Murphy High School and will attend the University of Alabama.

Howard R. Walker graduated from VMS-Wright Preparatory School in Mobile and will attend the University of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to John, Rachel, Ryan, Katie, David, Frederick, Chris, and Howard for their receipt of National Merit Scholarships for the 2005–2006 year and recognize their outstanding academic performance. I trust that my colleagues will join me in commending them on their diligence and commitment to excellence, and I trust we will hear many more good things from these outstanding young men and women in the months and years to come.

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### HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor Mr. Tim Friedman on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. Friedman, I wish many congratulations to you, and please accept my heartfelt thank you for your 30 years of service to the United States Congress.

Over the years, you have been a close witness to some of the greatest reforms, oratories, and achievements in legislative history. We have looked to you for your advice and trusted you completely and unhesitatingly. You have been a confident of legislators, and your sagacity has no match.

I have enjoyed and appreciated your good humor, good judgment, and your leadership in the Democratic Cloakroom. Throughout the early mornings and late nights, your very presence contributed solidity and strength to the proceedings of the day.

Your service to your country will long be remembered by Members such as myself, and we will miss your compassion and your enthusiasm. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment are cherished.

You have earned the respect, the admiration, and the affection of all of us who have worked with you. As you move forward to your next success, I have no doubt that you will make your compatriots proud and continue to fulfill your commitment to public service.

All of my best wishes and blessings to you in your future endeavors.