

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE 2006 TENNESSEE STATE GOSPEL SINGING CONVENTION

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2006 Tennessee State Gospel Singing Convention. For 72 years, this convention has been celebrating the State's rich gospel singing tradition. This year, the two-day event will be held in Carthage, TN, which I am proud to represent in this esteemed body.

This statewide convention began in 1934 with the goal of honoring Tennessee's historical roots in the gospel movement. By building on traditions of county music festivals, the convention drew a crowd of more than 6,000 people just 4 years later.

Since then, the festival has drawn several noted performers from across Tennessee and surrounding States. Along with quality entertainment, the convention also boasts a string of acclaimed leaders, including Sergeant Alvin C. York, who once served as vice president of the convention.

Today, the Tennessee State Gospel Singing Convention draws hundreds of people and continues to honor the tradition of gospel music in Tennessee. I am sure this year's convention will be a wonderful event and I commend all involved for their commitment to preserving Tennessee culture.

### IN HONOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PINE CITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to recognize the First Baptist Church of Pine City which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this August. This is a significant milestone for a church community dedicated to fellowship and service.

The First Baptist Church of Pine City was founded in 1906 under the guidance of Rev. John Smith. The congregation spent the first decade worshiping in temporary locations throughout Pine City, including a brush harbor on Rev. Smith's farm, the Beaten School, and even an old house. The church community finally bought land for a church on November 4, 1916 from Parker C. and Georgia Ewans for just \$10.00. Once the sale was finalized, the congregation came together to build a church, pitching in to cut down trees and haul lumber from the saw mill.

When the congregation outgrew this facility in 1954, the community came together once again to build the current First Baptist Church of Pine City. Members raised money for the new building by selling dinner plates on Sun-

days after the church service, donating daily salaries earned by picking cotton in the fields, and even raffling off a bale of cotton. The congregation has made many improvements to the church over the years and looks forward to continuing these improvements in the future.

A total of 21 preachers have served the First Baptist Church of Pine City over the last 100 years including the current pastor, Rev. I.E. Holland, Sr., who has led the community in worship for 22 years. On August 13, 2006, the First Baptist Church of Pine City will gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their church community. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the congregation on this important day and sending our best wishes for many more years of worship and service to the Lord.

### TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN COUNTY REPUBLICANS

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the great County of Austin in my home State of Texas.

There are few places in our great Nation where the people of one county take such pride and interest in their politics and the issues which affect their lives. Austin County is one of those few and special places.

I am particularly fortunate to represent the Republicans of Austin County. It is from this special group of people that I am able to gain insight and perspective on the issues we deal with everyday right here in our Nation's Capitol.

This exceptional community of loyal Americans strongly supports America's efforts against terrorism, both at home and abroad in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Republicans of Austin County also respect the traditional and American values that we work so hard to protect here in Washington.

In Austin County, they know marriage is between one man and one woman, and they know the words "Under God" belong in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag which flies over our great land.

Austin County Republicans also appreciate and understand the need to secure America's borders. I know when we discuss real ways to solidify the security of our borders, this Congress has the full support of the Austin County GOP.

I know we have their backing when we explore ways to stop the growing problem of illegal immigrants breaking into our Nation.

And, I know the elected leaders of our land have the support of Austin County Republicans when we pass laws aimed at providing legal citizens with America's social services, and not those in our Nation illegally.

But it's not just about immigration and protecting America's values.

The Republicans of Austin County are a fiscally sound and smart bunch of men and women who care very deeply about America's financial welfare. This is why we have their full support for tax cuts which keep more money in American pockets, and their support for legislation that has added more than 5 million new jobs to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, when we pass legislation to help make our Nation more secure and prosperous, we are doing so for people like my friends in Austin County, TX.

When we develop new and cheaper ways to power our homes and cars as we have in this Congress, we are doing so for people like those living in Austin County.

So Mr. Speaker, it is my hope you will join me tonight in honoring those hard working and God fearing people of Austin County, TX's GOP.

Each day they work very hard to help the Members of this body keep the United States a secure and prosperous nation, and for that they deserve our continued appreciation.

### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I voted in favor of H. Res. 921. The recent attacks against the State of Israel should be condemned and terrorists and their state sponsors should be held accountable. I supported this resolution because I believe that Israel, as a sovereign democratic state, has the right to defend herself against aggression. Furthermore, the attacks on Israel came from Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, lands from which Israel had withdrawn in the interests of peace.

However, I do have deep concerns about the scale of the Israeli response. I mourn the loss of life among all the suffering peoples of the region. We must actively work towards a peaceful solution to this crisis.

I do not believe that my vote in favor of this resolution provides President Bush with the authority to take direct military action against Lebanon, Syria, Iran or any other nation involved and my vote should not be interpreted as a vote in favor of such action. I insist that the President seek congressional approval if at any point he intends to take military action.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall vote 397. Due to a fender

• 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.

bender on my way to votes, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 400–402. Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on all votes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2006 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This medal—created in 1986—aply named for Ellis Island, an enduring symbol of the diversity that characterizes our great Nation, commemorates and recognizes Americans of all ethnic backgrounds who have made significant contributions through their own perseverance and sacrifice to our society and culture. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions. Since 1986, approximately 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. Collectively they represent a remarkable fraternity of individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding human beings and exemplary citizens of the United States. In addition, NECO awards one International Ellis Island Medal of Honor each year. This year's international honoree was Martin J. Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer of American International Group, Inc. Mr. Sullivan is British.

When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States on just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17 million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,000 people per day. Many of these newcomers had little or no knowledge of English, hardly any money, and many arrived with only the clothes on their backs. They arrived risking their lives in exchange for freedom and a better way of life.

I, once again, commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. As Rosemarie Taglione, Executive Director of NECO, so eloquently said in connection with this year's awards ceremony: “NECO's message of tolerance and harmony among diverse ethnic groups is, perhaps, even more important today than it was 20 years ago.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2006 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

Elizabeth Agbajian, Cesar Baez, Vartkes Barsam, Harry E. Bovay, Jr., Dawn Bryan, Fredy Bush, Joseph R. Calabrese, M.D., Tykya Camaras, Charles Carey, Edmund N. Carpenter II, Josip Cermin, Vahan Chamlian, Yong Jin Chang, George Chimples, Benjamin B. Choi, Esq., Dr. Deepak Chopra, Maxine Chou, Richard Corkery, Frank Corvino, Rita Cosby, John R. Costantino, Robert E. Courtney, Esq., Ed Cox, Long Deng, Vlade Divac, Kathleen M. Donahue, Ali Ebrahimi, George Elias Jr., Nijad Fares, BG Margrit M. Farmer, Lu-Jean Feng, MD, Siegfried Fischbacher, Col. David Fitzgerald, Aldo G. Frustaci, Esq., Fred Grapstein, C. Joseph Grignaffini, Sang-Ki Han, William Hanna, Richard Hayden, Roy Horn, Mori Hosseini, Jirair S. Hovnanian, Irwin Jacobs, Chief Joanne Jaffe, Thomas F. Kane, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Charles Evans Kilbourne III, Kwang Sung Kim, Peter Koo, Nat LaCour, Shau-wai Lam, Dean Lampros, Thomas D. Lee, Hon. John Lehman, George G. Makris, Roberta Mann, Hon. Rafi Manoukian, Col. Rick Martin, Ronald Martino, Jamie Masada, Fariborz Maseeh, Martin G. McGuinn, Dr. Navin C. Mehta, Jose Mejia, Edward Miller, Hamid Moghadam, VADM Kevin J. Moran, Dr. Navin Nanda, Luke Nasta, Frank Newell, MD, William C. Norris, Antranig M. Ouzoonian, Dinesh Patel, Hon. Tim Pawlenty, RADM David Pekoske, Fred Pezeshkan, Mark Pigott, Robert Price, Hon. Thomas Ridge, Imelda Roberts, Col. Angela Salinas, Frank Sciame, Niranjan Shah, John Shall, Thomas Nunziato Shannon, Jr., Dr. Hosein Shokouh-Amiri, Dr. Grace Shu, Dr. William T. Smith, Bruce A. Smith, Lewis T. Smoak Esq., Klaus-Peter Statz, Mitchell Steinhouse, Michael Stern, Martin J. Sullivan, Ramon M. Tallaj, MD, Dr. William Tansey III, Michael Tong, Rev. Nicholas Triantafilou, Lester Trilla, Manny Villafana, and Walter Wang.

CELEBRATING HUGO,  
MINNESOTA'S CENTENNIAL

**HON. MARK R. KENNEDY**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the city of Hugo, Minnesota, located in my district.

Originally settled on a small plot of land in the 1850s, the town of Hugo was formally established in 1906 around a railroad and a post office.

Although its beginnings were modest, by 1917, this small town, populated by residents who made their living cutting and hauling wood to the railroad, had its own hotel, store, and school, and had begun to build its reputation for quality agriculture.

One hundred years later, Hugo has remained true to its roots, and is still known for its commitment to its rich farmland.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the residents of Hugo in celebrating its first one hundred years. It is solid communities like this which make Minnesota great.

WELCOMING IRAQI PRIME MINISTER AL-MALIKI TO WASHINGTON

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just 3½ years ago, Iraq was controlled by a brutal dictator who killed an average of 300 people a day. Iraq has now been liberated, and a fledgling democracy has taken root. The Iraqi people—in the face of terrorist threats—turned out in droves to ratify a constitution and elect their representatives. Today, this Congress and the American people have heard from the democratically elected leader of Iraq, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

I am grateful for the Prime Minister's address, as I appreciate his message of hope and progress. The training of Iraqi Security Forces is advancing rapidly. The parliamentary cabinet has been completed. Iraq has become a civil society.

Having visited Iraq six times, I have witnessed firsthand the progress being made. While there is still a long road ahead, the United States will continue to stand with the Iraqi people which protects American families. We will together make Iraq the graveyard of terrorists.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

COMPETITION

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the value of competition in our Department of Defense acquisition process. Without competition in the acquisition process we have no choices. Without competition, innovation does not exist. Without competition we have no bargaining position relative to costs. Without competition the capability of our military stagnates.

Some would argue that we must protect our industrial base. I would suggest that competition does that very thing. We live in a global economy and, when U.S. industry does not produce competitive products, our industrial base suffers. It is true in virtually every industry.

If we are to continue to procure the best military equipment for best value the taxpayer dollar can afford, we must preserve the competitive process. In today's global economy that means we must not shy away from our allies' participation. Rather we should learn the lessons of the commercial sector and embrace the value of their partnership.

Ultimately, what does competition mean? It means a fair and open competition through an objective, quantifiable process. Secretary Rumsfeld for 6 years has espoused a capabilities based acquisition process. It is time to execute those words and follow the documented process.

Air refueling is the key enabler to our global military might and we need to get the competition for the KC-135 Replacement program

right. That means the Defense Acquisition System needs to prove that its selection process understands capabilities-based evaluation and appropriately weighs the system's key performance parameters. Otherwise, we'll never know whether the competition was a true competition and whether our warfighters have received the best possible capability.

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TRIBUTE TO CINDY CREAMER

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Cindy Creamer, a thirty-year veteran of the City of Takoma Park Police Department, on the occasion of her retirement. As an officer and police chief, Col. Creamer has worked tirelessly over the past three decades to ensure the safety and security of Takoma Park residents, and her dedication to this vital task deserves our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Sworn in as a police officer on her 21st birthday, Chief Creamer served in every division of the Takoma Park Police Department. She began her career as a Communications Dispatcher in 1976, then went on to serve in and eventually command both the patrol and criminal investigation divisions. Chief Creamer was selected as Officer of the Year in 1980 while serving as a patrol officer, and she received the honor again in 1990 for her criminal investigating skills. As the first female sergeant and lieutenant in the agency, she received numerous other honors, including Supervisor of the Year.

Chief Creamer has served the residents of the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County with dedication and commitment. She has made a difference in the quality of life throughout our county. Although she is retiring from active duty on the Takoma Park police force, I am delighted that Chief Creamer will continue to serve our community as deputy chief for patrol at the WSSC Police Department. I am confident that her many years of active experience will ensure her success in this role.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to represent Chief Cindy Creamer in the U.S. Congress and to extend my congratulations and thanks to her for her service to our community.

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TRIBUTE TO THE REV. G. VINCENT LEWIS, CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAROL CITY

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding and experienced church leaders, the Rev. G. Vincent Lewis, Executive Pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. The members and supporters of the congregation celebrated the 30th Anniversary of his pastorate on Sunday, July 23, 2006, in a happy

event held at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Carol City.

Rev. Lewis represents the vocation of a Good Shepherd who attends to his flock in ways we can never fathom. As Executive Pastor and Chief Ministerial Officer, he exudes the knowledge and pragmatism of a man who is capable of making good things happen in the corporal world while also teaching the ways of God. He has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the agenda of spiritual wisdom and good governance impacting our duties and responsibilities to the less fortunate.

Rev. Lewis' timely and persevering leadership at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Carol City is genuinely commendable. As a man of God and as a community leader, he has indeed earned our deepest respect and admiration.

We congratulate Reverend Lewis and thank him for his many years of service in the Vineyard of the Lord. He continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of loving God and by serving our fellow human beings, and our fervent hope is for his continued health and success as he begins his fourth decade of service.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND RESPONSE ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Community Protection and Response Act of 2006 to eliminate confusion in terrorist prevention and response.

One of the major lessons learned in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks is that timely response is critical. Any delay complicates short-, medium-, and long-term recovery efforts. Sadly, many of the lessons that we have learned have gone without an appropriate response.

In response to the attacks of September 11th, Congress took a series of actions to bring relief to affected areas. These legislative actions along with existing statutes, including the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Act and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, formed the framework for the Federal Government's response. The magnitude of the attacks and the need for Congress to take action before certain relief could be delivered added to the challenge of the recovery efforts and exposed critical weaknesses in Federal authority to respond.

The Community Protection and Response Act would amend the Stafford Act along with other statutes and would give the President a series of policy options to choose from following a homeland security event. A homeland security event is defined as an event that poses a significant risk to the security of people and property and is in such a magnitude that effective response is beyond the scope and capability of the affected State and local government. Many of these options are based on congressional action following September 11th or other policy suggestions in reports by the Congressional Research Service, the General Accounting Office and the New York branch of the Federal Reserve. Specifically, in

the event of a homeland security event, the President can provide grants for lost tax revenue, aid to school systems, and assistance to medical facilities and utility companies. The bill also establishes guidelines to ensure the public health of area residents and disaster workers.

Specifically this legislation would do the following:

COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND RESPONSE ACT OF 2006 (CPR)

EXPANSION OF DEFINITIONS IN THE STAFFORD ACT/  
AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING STATUTES

1. Expands the definition of "major disaster" to include terrorist attacks, dispersions of radioactive or other contaminants, dispersion of hazardous substances, or other catastrophic event.

2. In the event of a homeland security event expands definition to include private for-profit utilities (including power, water, telecommunications and phone services).

3. Defines "Homeland Security Event" as a major disaster that poses a significant risk to the people and property of the Nation and it is such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the affected State and local government. Designation requested by Governor and made by President.

4. Changes definition of critical services to include education systems, providers of counseling assistance, and providers of assistance to the homeless.

5. Removes \$5 million restriction for loans as a result of lost taxes or other revenues. Forgives interest in the event of a Homeland Security Event.

6. Removes requirement of "direct" impact for assistance.

HOMELAND SECURITY EVENTS NEW AUTHORITIES GIVEN  
TO THE PRESIDENT

After declaration, the President is authorized, but not required, to do the following:

1. Establish a coordinating office and appoint a Disaster Recovery Director.

2. Reimburse State and local governments to respond to high security alerts.

3. Provide grants to local governments which may suffer a loss of tax and other revenues.

4. Reimburse school systems for lost instructional time, mental health and trauma counseling and clean up cost.

5. Authorizes EPA to perform all indoor air testing and undertake remedial actions.

STANDARDS AND REPORTING

Directs OMB to establish standards for reporting disaster relief efforts regarding each agency that assists in disaster relief efforts following a homeland security event. Reports such data to Congress.

MONITORING OF HEALTH RISKS

1. Instructs President to appoint a special commission to study the authorities available to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following a homeland security event. Including the monitoring of the environment.

2. Works with the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to develop guidelines regarding health risks for affected areas and instructs the CDC to provide information in the case of biological materials.

3. Provides for standardization, rapid collection and analysis, and communication following a homeland security event.

4. Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to private

entities to collect health data in the aftermath of an event. These awards can be made in advance of the event for immediate response.

**SUPPORT FOR THE BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT**

**HON. LUIS FORTUÑO**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, today I express my strong support for H.R. 1849, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. Breast cancer adversely affects hundreds of thousands of American women and their families each year. Introduced by Representatives SUE KELLY and ROSA DELAURO, this bill would require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations. H.R. 1849, in conjunction with its Senate companion bill, S. 901, represents an important bicameral effort to improve and ensure the health of American women.

I strongly believe that H.R. 1849 is a valuable tool to provide effective health care and recovery support to those impacted by breast cancer.

**HONORING THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and special privilege to address this great body on such an auspicious occasion. The Centennial Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., commenced yesterday, marking 100 years from the fraternity's founding in Ithaca, NY, at Cornell University. This week in Washington, DC, men from every discipline and geographic location convene to chart and plan for the fraternity's future, celebrate its 100th anniversary, and reinvigorate its founding principles, scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity.

As a proud member of this fraternity, I feel special esteem in recognizing the historical significance of the centennial anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. I joined the ranks of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as an undergraduate student at Florida A&M University to follow in the footsteps of many great men before me, such as W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, and Paul Robeson.

I am pleased to join with the entire House in recognizing the fraternity's 100th anniversary with the passage of H. Con. Res. 384, "Recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans." I commend my brethren and the

leadership of the organization for the achievements and accomplishments made thus far. On this historic occasion let us march forth to lay the groundwork for another 100 years.

**IN HONOR OF REVEREND RICHARD KEVIN BARNARD**

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to welcome my pastor, Reverend Richard Kevin Barnard. I am honored Father Barnard is here today to lead us in glory and praise of our Almighty. Reverend Barnard has served as Rector of The Chapel of the Cross—a Reformed Episcopal Church—since July of 1989. He has also served Reformed Episcopal Congregations in New Jersey and New York.

Before coming to The Chapel, Father Barnard was Director of Communications for the International Bible Society, which was then located in East Brunswick, NJ. In that capacity he was a regular participant in the monthly White House Forum for Religious Organizations during the Reagan Administration and represented the Bible Society at public and private events, traveling to Central America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Father Barnard is the author of two books and numerous articles, and is also a Past Master of Roy Stanley Masonic Lodge in Dallas.

Before becoming a Reformed Episcopalian, the Reverend Barnard was a Baptist pastor, serving congregations in Missouri, Florida and Tennessee. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, and holds the Master of Divinity Degree from Cummins Theological Seminary, a Reformed Episcopal seminary in Summerville, SC.

Father Barnard is married to the former Miss Paula Ann Henderson of Fort Worth, TX. They have four children and two grandchildren. Their youngest son, Adam, is currently serving aboard in USS *Los Angeles* (SSN 688), stationed at Pearl Harbor.

Father Barnard's gracious presence and true dedication to the work and word of Christ is an instrumental part of my life. He guides his flock diligently and challenges us to remain faithful to pursuing our walk with Christ daily. I am thankful for his leadership and his presence here today. It is truly and honor.

**NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS ACT OF 2006**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 203, the National Heritage Areas Act. This bill contains a small package of resource conservation and management bills, including the Senate passed version of one of my bills—H.R. 18, the Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act.

The Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act will fund \$25 million for the

cleanup of a rocket fuel additive that has contaminated groundwater supplies in the Santa Ana watershed, namely, the Rialto-Colton basin and the Chino basin.

Cities in the Inland Empire of Southern California are closing their groundwater wells due to contamination from this fuel and explosive called perchlorate.

This chemical is a volatile organic compound and has been found to be harmful to thyroid function.

From most accounts, 90 percent of perchlorate in water comes from a federal source, primarily from former military sites and other Department of Defense installations.

Three hundred nineteen groundwater wells are impacted in California alone—78 of them in my district.

This bill includes a similar provision for contamination in Representative POMBO's region.

Perchlorate doesn't just affect the drinking water supply, but our food supply as well. A 2003 study found perchlorate in lettuce grown in areas where the water supply is contaminated with perchlorate.

And, perchlorate has even been found in milk.

Hardworking families in my region, which has and has had large military and aerospace facilities, are not at fault and should not have to pay for a federally created problem.

The communities I represent cannot afford costly toxic cleanup and the alternative is no better.

Cities are being forced to raise water rates to outrageous levels, forgo dust control on highways to meet Clean Air Act requirements, and to truck in water from other regions.

The region I represent in California is ground zero for this contamination and the Federal Government needs to step up and take responsibility.

Including my bill as a provision to S. 203 will go a long way to protect children and elderly in California from dangerous health risks.

The House of Representatives has already twice passed H.R. 18 and I am glad the Senate has moved forward in approving my legislative proposal.

The communities in my district need this assistance, and I urge my colleagues to please support S. 203 and the many important provisions and bills included therein.

**RECOGNIZING THE BETHLEHEM CENTERS OF NASHVILLE AS ONE OF THE TOP RATED CHILD CARE CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY**

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Bethlehem Centers of Nashville and express my heartfelt congratulations on their fourth year to receive a three-star rating from Tennessee Department of Human Services for their child care services.

Founded in 1894 as the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, today the Bethlehem Centers of Nashville serve thousands of children, young adults, adult women and senior citizens in the North Nashville and downtown neighborhoods. Bethlehem Centers provide a variety of services designed to support individuals regardless of their economic background.

With the goal of helping individuals toward becoming strong, independent and contributing members of their family and community, Bethlehem Centers provide Nashvillians with life skills training, tutoring, nutrition counseling, senior outreach programs, business and career training, GED preparation, mentoring, and even daily hot lunches.

In addition to these community programs, Bethlehem Centers have earned a three-star rating for their high quality child care services from the Tennessee Department of Human Services. This is their fourth year to receive the highest rating awarded by the State and to be placed among the top rated child care centers in the Nation.

I am proud to send my heartiest congratulations to Bethlehem Centers' Joyce Searcy and all the dedicated staff members who have committed themselves to bettering Nashville's communities.

I join with everyone in Tennessee's Fifth District in applauding the Bethlehem Centers of Nashville for all that they do for the community and I commend everyone at Bethlehem Centers of Nashville who make it a special place to learn, play and grow.

#### HONORING THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res 384, recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate fraternity established for African-Americans.

From the first literary fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary through the subsequent development of social fraternities starting with Kappa Alpha in 1825, college fraternities have sought to foster close friendship and personal development.

In the early 20th century, Black students were often excluded from the social organizations at many colleges and universities. Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, to provide associations and support among African-American students. With its cardinal principles of "Manly Deeds, Scholarship and Love for All Mankind," over 175,000 men have been initiated into the fraternity and there are now over 700 chapters worldwide. Among its membership are a number of prominent figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Owens, Thurgood Marshall and our colleague CHARLES RANGEL.

Aside from the lasting friendships that many young men have found within the fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha has dedicated itself to a number of philanthropic programs. Alpha works closely with organizations such as Head Start, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the NAACP and Habitat for Humanity. Alpha Phi Alpha has also created a number of its own programs such as the Go-To-High-School, Go-To-College program and "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People." Alpha Phi Alpha also submitted the request for The Washington,

D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation which was authorized by President Clinton in 1998.

Alpha Phi Alpha has two chapters in and around my district in central New Jersey, the Sigma Xi Chapter at Monmouth University and the Delta Iota Chapter at Rutgers University. I am proud of the role they play in enriching their surrounding communities.

From its origins as a social network for African-American college students to its continuing philanthropic efforts, Alpha Phi Alpha is indeed worthy of recognition and I am proud to stand in support of this resolution.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the essential contributions of employees and volunteers across the country and abroad who maintain our nation's public parks and recreation facilities. In addition, I would like to commemorate National Recreation and Parks Month, celebrated annually since 1984 throughout the month of July. The purpose of National Recreation and Parks Month is not only to celebrate the start of summer programs but also to advocate for parks and recreation by encouraging communities to engage in outdoor physical activities and volunteering.

Recently, I have undertaken a bipartisan proposal to stop the dumping of sewage into the Great Lakes. Initiatives like these are only the beginning. Through the efforts of Congress and the National Recreation and Park Association, America moves toward a brighter horizon in environmental policy. National Recreation and Parks Month is an important occasion to remind us of our dedication to the preservation of the environment, and serves as an aide-memoire for all Americans to enjoy the natural wonders of our nation.

As a member of the National Parks Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the collective efforts of volunteers and staff alike whose contributions and involvement with the nation's public parks and recreation facilities continue to shape American communities as well as the environment. Today, we celebrate the National Recreation and Park Association's accomplishments and persistent efforts to preserve our environment and show appreciation for the nation's public parks and recreation facilities. The NRPA's initiative, along with support provided by volunteers and staff, truly sow the seeds for communal growth. Such achievements deserve recognition not just during this month, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

#### DISASTER RECOVERY PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. RICK BOUCHER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5013, the Disaster Recovery Per-

sonal Protection Act. This legislation would ensure that gun owners' second amendment rights are not compromised in times of natural disaster. I am pleased to lend my strong support to this measure as it is considered today.

The Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act addresses a problem brought to light in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the resulting flood, federal and local law enforcement officials confiscated the firearms of numerous law-abiding individuals. Those actions were entirely unjustified. This injustice must not be repeated elsewhere.

By prohibiting federal, state, or local law enforcement officers from seizing legally-owned firearms which have in no manner been misused during national emergencies, this legislation would prevent a repeat of the abuse of emergency powers that followed Hurricane Katrina.

The government should never confiscate legally-purchased and properly used firearms from law-abiding citizens. Whether natural disasters occur or not does nothing to alter this reality: lawful gun owners have the unalienable right to possess and transport their firearms.

H.R. 5013 would not restrict the ability of law enforcement officials to confiscate stolen firearms or to act when firearms are used in an unlawful manner.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, the absence of an established policing force allowed criminals to loot business and threaten rescue workers and residents of the city. Many individuals looted gun stores and other places of business which sell firearms. As with any stolen property, these stolen firearms should be confiscated, and the individuals who stole them and misused them for crimes should be punished.

Law enforcement officials, however, seized thousands of firearms from law-abiding citizens. During the lawlessness and disorder of the disaster, the law-abiding citizens of the region needed to be able to arm themselves and defend their families and property against criminals. The seizing of these individuals' firearms left them defenseless in the chaos following the hurricane. This legislation protects the second amendment rights of citizens when that right to self-defense is needed most.

The Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act is a common sense measure to prevent the confiscation of firearms from citizens who have committed no crime, and I strongly urge my colleagues to approve it.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORA T. WALKER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Cora T. Walker. Cora Thomasina Walker was born on June 20, 1922, in Charlotte, N.C., one of nine children of William and Benetta Jones Walker. The family moved to the Bronx when she was a child. When she was an adolescent, her parents separated, leaving her, her mother and her siblings dependent on public assistance.

After graduating from James Monroe High School in the Bronx, Ms. Walker promptly informed the Welfare Department that their help

was no longer required: she would support the family. She took a night job as a teletype operator with Western Union and also sold Christmas cards.

At the same time, Ms. Walker was enrolled at St. John's University, then in Brooklyn, in a special 6-year program in which students earned both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. She received a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. John's in 1945 and a law degree the next year.

For much of her career, Ms. Walker was active in the National Bar Association, a historically black organization. She helped found the association's Corporate Counsel Conference, an annual meeting sponsored by its commercial law section. In 1947, when Ms. Walker was admitted to the New York bar, she found the doors of the city's law firms tightly shut. (One firm relented and offered her a position—as a secretary.) So she struck out on her own.

Active in Republican politics, Ms. Walker ran unsuccessfully for the New York State Senate in 1958 and 1964. In 1970, *The New York Times* included her—the only woman—on a list of the most powerful leaders in Harlem.

In 1960, Cora Walker became the first woman to serve as president of the Harlem Lawyers Association. Until recently her law firm was located in Harlem, first on 125th Street and later from a renovated brownstone on Lenox Avenue. Ms. Walker was the first woman to run for president of the NBA. This is a little known fact by the younger lawyers.

A recipient of numerous awards, the annual Black Law Student's Association's Breakfast held at the annual NBA Convention is named in her honor. She retired from the practice of law in 1999. The same year the New York County Lawyers' Association installed a plaque outside her Lenox Avenue law office commemorating her half-century of practicing law.

In 1988, she helped found the Corporate Counsel Conference which is still sponsored annually by the Commercial Law and Corporate Law Section of the NBA. Her first client was an undertaker, for whom she did collections. Before her retirement, her firm was representing corporate clients such as Conrail, the Ford Motor Company, Texas Instruments and Kentucky Fried Chicken. Although she was representing corporate clients, she continued to draft wills and represent the "plain, ordinary, not elegant people".

Cora T. Walker made an impact on the lives of many black lawyers across the country. She will be dearly missed, but not forgotten. It gives me great pleasure to give tribute to Ms. Cora T. Walker.

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HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OVERTON COUNTY

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of Overton County, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. The Upper Cumberland community will commemorate its bicentennial with a 3-day celebration in September.

The area of Overton County was originally encompassed in North Carolina as part of the 13 original colonies. The location was ideal for settlers due to its fresh water, fertile soil, abundant wild game and moderate climate. The area had been a heralded Native American hunting ground for many years.

As the community grew and prospered, the General Assembly of Tennessee named the area Overton County on September 11th, 1806. The county was named for Judge John Overton, a personal friend of Andrew Jackson. Since then, the lines of the county have changed significantly, but the community has maintained its commitment to an outstanding quality of life.

County Mayor Kenneth Copeland, Livingston Mayor Frank Martin and the Overton County Bicentennial Committee will lead the celebration in September. They have done an outstanding job in organizing this event and leading the community into the 21st Century. I wish them well and hope the next 200 years are as prosperous and progressive as the first 200 years.

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IN HONOR OF THE GIBBINS' 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a special couple from England, Arkansas, Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins, who celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on July 3, 2006. This is a significant milestone and one that only a very few are fortunate enough to celebrate in their lifetime.

Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins met as children in Fairbanks, Arkansas, and decided to marry in the summer of 1931. The couple made their home in Lonoke County, Arkansas and spent the next forty-five years growing cotton, soybeans, and wheat. Throughout the years, the Gibbins' were blessed with four children—Van D. Gibbins, Ulyes F. Gibbins, Lynn E. Gibbins, and Joe C. Gibbins—and now have the pleasure of spending time with seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Their love for each other and their family extends to their neighbors as well, where they continue to stay involved in their community. They remain active members of the Coy Church of Christ and are often seen participating in local activities and events. Their energy is truly remarkable and perhaps the secret to a long and fulfilling life.

A 75th wedding anniversary reminds us that marriage is not an instant achievement but a covenant that requires love, patience, and respect. Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins have perfected this commitment to each other and are truly blessed to have a strong marriage, their family, and a lifetime of memories. As they live each day by their wedding vows, they continue to inspire all who are fortunate to know them.

On July 3rd, 2006, Eityhel and Luvesta Gibbins joined their family at a celebration to honor their 75 years of marriage. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this joyous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of love and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF BURNS, KANSAS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Burns, Kansas for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

With a population of approximately 450, the citizens of Burns and the surrounding area demonstrate pride in their community through action.

Over the course of many years, steps have been taken to ensure that the future of Burns is a bright one.

In October of 2002, ground was broken on a new community center. With assistance from the Kansas Department of Commerce Kan-Step Program, the building was completed in March of 2003. During that five-month period, crews of volunteers worked on the center on a daily basis. Cabinets and More, a local business, volunteered more than 300 hours of labor to build and install cabinets. A donation of \$18,000 was made by the Burns school alumni and 200 chairs were provided at cost—saving the community \$7,000. The end result is a building that sports a wellness center, youth room, a place for seniors to quilt and a great kitchen. The center is constantly reserved for civic events and private gatherings. Carolyn Koehn, former city clerk and coordinator of the community center project, believes the facility demonstrates a collective willingness to enhance Burns' quality of life—today and for future generations. "This project would have not succeeded without the culture of volunteerism and the acceptance of change and new ideas in the Burns community," Koehn said.

More recently, residents banded together to transform the former post office into a new community library and city hall. Grant funding from USDA Rural Development covered \$50,000 of the project expense. Impressively, more than \$95,000 was raised by the Burns Public Library Board from private sources. Approximately half that amount came from local and area residents. The fundraising effort consisted of phone calls, an ice cream social by the Burns United Methodist Church and an 800 letter fundraising campaign. The new city hall and library was completed in May of 2006. Barb Stuhlsatz, library board president, is excited by the additional opportunities that the new facility affords area residents. "We now have a state-of-the-art library that provides reading programs, GED assistance and computer access to residents of Burns and the surrounding area," Stuhlsatz said.

The Burns PRIDE committee is always searching for ways to promote the community. Sandy Heyman, a committee member, came up with a unique way to achieve this goal. She initiated the sale of two-foot tall concrete roosters to local businesses and residents. Upon sale, the roosters were then creatively decorated. In May of 2004, Burns hosted its first ever Rooster Parade. In all, more than 60 roosters have been sold, decorated and are on display. In recognition of the project's success, the local Lions Club has purchased a four-foot rooster that serves as a welcome

sign on the way into town. Sandy is proud of how the roosters have united her hometown. "It is amazing how many people participated in the project," Heyman said. "The roosters really brought people together."

Additional art can be found in the Prairie Arts store, an arts and crafts mall that attracts visitors from across the country. A local group of artists and craftsmen organized the business, which displays intricate wheat weavings, beautiful quilts, handcrafted wood items and much more. The arts and crafts mall is one of more than 20 businesses that call the Burns area home.

Local residents developed a new memorial park, which includes a pavilion, picnic tables, walking path, horseshoe pit, basketball goal and restroom. In addition, volunteers installed new city street signs, made improvements to the local ball field and constructed a new gazebo.

Since 1954, families in Burns have hosted international students in their homes over the Thanksgiving holiday. The program was initiated by Betty Grimwood and Bonnie Lohrentz, who thought it would be great if foreign students could experience rural, American culture. In recognition of how thoroughly the community embraced the idea, Burns received a Distinguished Service Award from the Institute of International Education in 1959. The award was presented by then Vice President Richard Nixon. Over the last 52 years, more than 60 local families have served as student hosts. In excess of 500 people representing 110 countries have visited Burns. Today, local resident Tom Grimwood carries on his mother's international legacy. Tom and his wife Nedy teach Spanish and Italian at American companies. They also welcome foreign students into their home every Thanksgiving. Tom is proud of the reputation that the program has developed over the years. "One of our students told us that Burns is the smallest town with the biggest diplomatic service in the world," Grimwood said.

In her 21 years as a resident, Mayor Mary Glenn has witnessed first hand how her community pulls together in order to achieve a goal. "All of our accomplishments are made possible because of a tremendous volunteer effort," Glenn said.

Stuhlsatz knows that her hometown is special. "The people of Burns are awesome," Stuhlsatz said. "They are like a family and whether they still live here or not, they work together to keep Burns a place you want to come home to."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Burns are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create such opportunities. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Burns is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER G. MEHAS

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and a great leader in my community back home. Dr. Peter G. Mehas is retiring after 44 years in education as Superintendent of the Fresno County Schools. Dr. Mehas dedicated his life to ensuring our children thrive both in and out of the classroom. As an educator, administrator, public servant, community leader, father, husband, and grandfather, Dr. Mehas gives nothing less than his absolute best.

A small glimpse into the long list of Dr. Mehas's achievements reveals his unwavering dedication to education. Not often enough are educators recognized for their unselfish devotion to bettering the future of California's children. These teachers and administrators put in countless hours at school, at home and on their weekends. They deserve our greatest respect and gratitude for their efforts.

Throughout his distinguished career Dr. Mehas served as an instructor at Roosevelt High School and taught at Edison High School before moving to Clovis Unified School District. He worked his way up from assistant principal at Clovis High to principal, then assistant superintendent and finally associate superintendent.

From 1984 to 1987, Mehas established and served as the legislative advocate in Sacramento and Washington, DC, for the State Center Community College District, Fresno County and Modoc County Offices of Education and a consortium of 36 school districts throughout Central California.

In 1987, Mehas was appointed by Governor Deukmejian as his Chief Advisor on public education in the state, as well as all private and independent schools and universities.

Dr. Mehas was elected Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in 1990 and subsequently served three more terms. Being a superintendent is never an easy job, but to do the job for 16 years, and do the job as well as Dr. Mehas has done, is remarkable. We will miss his invaluable contributions.

In September 1991, President George Bush appointed Dr. Mehas to a 17-member advisory commission to implement his executive order on Latino education, a task Dr. Mehas was thrilled to have been given and excelled at. Later, Dr. Mehas was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Community College Board of Governors.

Most recently, Dr. Mehas was appointed, in 2005, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, to serve on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Excellence.

As you can see, Dr. Mehas has committed the majority of his adult life to advancing education. Thanks in large part to Dr. Mehas, the children of the San Joaquin Valley are better prepared to face the challenges of the future.

Throughout the years, I have also had the privilege of working with Dr. Mehas on a variety of issues. Pete, we wish you well, as you embark on a new phase of your life. You may be retiring, but your contributions to education will endure.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we find ourselves once again on disturbingly familiar ground as Israel continues to defend itself against armed attacks by terrorist groups targeting civilian populations. As a sovereign nation, Israel has the right and, more importantly, the responsibility to defend its borders from acts of terrorism and threats to its national security. The War on Terror continues to combat terrorist organizations and their State sponsors, and as such, Hamas and Hezbollah must be held accountable for their destructive actions.

The recent unprovoked rocket attacks in Israel and the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers are obvious acts of war against the democratic nation by Hezbollah and Hamas. The U.S. has been a strong leader in the War on Terror and these offensive acts of violence are no exception in the mission to stop terrorist activities around the world. Increased international pressure to call for an end to terrorism must be a priority, as an unstable Middle East can have dire consequences to the entire international community, as confirmed by the extensive evacuations currently taking place in Lebanon.

The Governments of Syria and Iran, as supporters of both Hamas and Hezbollah in their terror activities, must be held accountable for the violence taking place in Israel to protect the innocent populations of both Israel and Lebanon that find themselves in the middle of continued violence. Additionally, the Lebanese Government must call for an end to all terrorist violence and do everything possible to expel Hezbollah from within its borders. These terrorist organizations cannot be ignored and Lebanon must protect its sovereignty in the presence of any terrorist activity by taking decisive action.

I commend Israel for minimizing civilian casualties by focusing defensive attacks on infrastructures and weapons facilities, intentionally avoiding towns and villages. In the face of such violence, Israel continues to follow democratic and civilized principles of war in protecting its people and Country. I continue to support the right of Israel to vigorously defend itself in response to attacks of violence that threaten the existence of the Israeli people and pray for the end of violence and a peaceful outcome in the Middle East.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of a former colleague, a patriot, and a dear friend.

Tom Manton was the son of immigrant farmers from the west of Ireland—Thomas, of

County Roscommon, and Margaret, of County Mayo.

Consider his impressive life story: Born in Manhattan, reared in Queens, educated in Brooklyn, then 2 years in the Marine Corps, 5 years in the New York Police Department, 15 years on the New York City Council, and 14 years here in Congress.

Thankfully, my career as a Member of Congress included a wonderful working relationship and tremendous friendship with Tom Manton. We worked together on a number of issues—most notably the quest for peace in Ireland, and the goal of uniting all the counties of Ireland.

Tom served as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs. I had the privilege of traveling with him and President Clinton to Northern Ireland. Tom was a leading force in getting President Clinton involved in the peace process. Tom was chiefly responsible for getting the president to agree to meet with Gerry Adams.

Tom's commitment to the cause of justice and peace in Ireland, and his commitment to human rights, was a driving force that helped lead to the Good Friday Accords.

But, Mr. Speaker, more than the working relationship, there was the friendship.

In my first run for Congress, almost two decades ago, without hesitation, the man from Queens was there to help me. And thanks to Tom, and many others, I won.

I am so grateful for the wise advice and good counsel Tom gave to me through the years.

Mr. Speaker, before I even came to Washington in 1988 for the formal orientation, Tom Manton invited me to his office in New York City for an informal orientation. It was an invaluable introduction to what life in Congress was like.

I never could thank him enough for that.

In my later reelection campaigns, Tom was always there to help. Once I told him of an event that the Irish American community in my district was planning to help my campaign. Tom immediately said, "Yes, I'll be there."

And he was. We had the party in Albany, and Tom spoke on my behalf. He didn't stop there, however, because Tom Manton also sang on my behalf.

And I shall always be proud to sing his praises!!

Tom Manton rendered a lifetime of outstanding service to his family, his community, and his country. I am truly blessed and deeply grateful to have been able to count him as a friend.

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#### TRIBUTE TO UTMB

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the University of Texas Medical Branch of Galveston (UTMB), Texas, which is in my congressional district, on being named by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation one of the best workplaces for commuters among colleges and universities. UTMB earned this recognition because of its efforts to improve both the environment and the quality of life for commuters.

UTMB has also recently received Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need grant to support seven fellowships for nursing students who intend to teach nursing at the university level. UTMB only applied for funding for three nursing fellowships, but the Department of Education awarded UTMB funding for seven fellowships. I am sure I do not have to tell my colleagues how unusual it is for a college to be awarded more funding than they requested.

Working closely with UTMB as I do, I am not surprised that it is in the forefront of both nursing education and efforts to improve the lives of commuters. The people of UTMB are consistently working to improve the lives and health of Texans and all Americans.

UTMB is one of the major centers of medical research in Texas and in the Nation. UTMB features a multidisciplinary environment that enables scientists and clinicians to work on projects that often have immediate application to patient care. Among UTMB's areas of strength are neuroscience; pain management and stroke treatment; gastrointestinal health; environmental health and asthma; infectious diseases; vaccine development; cancer; molecular medicine; aging; and diabetes. Among its numerous activities, UTMB hosts summer science programs for middle school, high school, and undergraduate students to help encourage and develop the research work force of tomorrow.

A recent, and particularly noteworthy, UTMB program is Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, a key component in the efforts to protect the American people from the threat of bioterrorism. Established in 2002, the center has two main objectives: (1) To reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. and other nations to the use of biological weapons for warfare and terrorism, and (2) to alleviate suffering from emerging and tropical infectious diseases through application of basic, applied, and field research, and education.

While UTMB's research program is impressive, many Texans primarily think of UTMB as a leading provider of quality health care. This is because UTMB offers services ranging from primary to specialized diagnostic care. Particularly impressive is UTMB's pioneering telemedicine programs. For example, UTMB has recently begun a new telemedicine program to bring medical services to the residents of Jamaica Beach, Texas. UTMB has established telemedicine connections for special-needs children in east Texas, for workers on offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, for employees of a Galveston-based insurance company, and for passengers of a cruise ship that will travel worldwide.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston being named one of the best workplaces for commuters and for receiving funding for seven nursing fellowships from the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need grant program. I also extend my gratitude, on behalf of all the people of my district, for all that the people of UTMB are doing in both the field of medical research and in delivering quality health care to the people of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SISTER CITIES ORGANIZATION OF CRIVITZ, WI, AND CRIVITZ, GERMANY

### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize the Sister Cities Organization of Crivitz, Wisconsin and Crivitz, Germany, which is celebrating five years of friendship and diplomacy.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the People to People program in 1956 to promote cultural awareness and diplomacy through the actions of ordinary citizens. As the program expanded, Sister Cities International was founded to encourage sister-city partnerships between the U.S. and international communities.

Today we celebrate the partnership of two towns who share one name. The northeastern Wisconsin community of Crivitz was founded in 1883 and named after F.J. Bartels's hometown in northeastern Germany. While the two communities are separated by many miles, they share a proud heritage and desire to further connect their citizens not only through a shared name, but with a cross-cultural relationship that continues to grow and expand.

It is truly an honor and pleasure to recognize the Sister Cities Organization of Crivitz, WI and Crivitz, Germany, and thank the citizens who continue to promote President Eisenhower's vision of peace through understanding.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS N. HADDAD

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis N. Haddad, a fine public servant and dear family friend who passed away on April 21, 2006. Throughout his 82 years, Lou served in the U.S. military, realized professional success, held numerous public offices, involved himself in various community groups, and raised a wonderful family with his wife, Martha.

Born in Beggs, OK, in 1923, Lou joined the Army in 1940 at age of 16. As a member of the 12th Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division during World War II, Lou saw action in the North African campaign, the capture of Sicily, and the invasions of Anzio and southern France. He also served honorably in the Korean war as a member of the Green Berets. Lou followed his lengthy and distinguished military career by entering the professional world, successfully embarking on a second career as private businessman.

Lou later began what would become a long and interesting career as a public servant. He served the city of Seaside as planning commissioner and Architectural Review Board member from 1962 to 1964, and became the Area Planning Commission chairman from 1966 to 1967. Lou was a city councilman from 1964 to 1966 and then again from 1978 to 1980. He was the mayor of Seaside from

1966 to 1972. Lou served as vice chair for Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency and Monterey County Local Agencies Formation Commission, chairman of the Tri-County Board of the California Council on Justice, director of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Lou's public service was not limited to government agencies but extended to the greater community as well.

Lou always remained very involved in community organizations, serving as president of both the Rotary and Lions Clubs. He was a member of the Elks Lodge, Knights of Columbus, and the Kiwanis Club, as well as a charter member of the Monterey Peninsula Boys and Girls Club and director for the Alliance on the Aging. Lou was also a member of the Military Order of the World Wars, U.S. Navy League, and the Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Lou spent much of his life serving his fellow citizens. He proudly fought for the United States of America in two wars, devoted his time and energy to multiple public offices, and supported his community through his membership in numerous citizen groups. Lou Haddad, through the life he led and the person he became, demonstrated the potential impact that one individual can have on his community and country. He influenced people and events on so many levels, and came to represent the positive, compassionate and, above all, human force that many strive for but few actually become. I enjoyed being on his talk shows and working on many of his projects. He was a citizen of public service.

While Lou is remembered for his success as a soldier, businessman, public servant, and community activist, he will be remembered most as a loving and supportive husband and father to his wife, Martha, and his children, Charles, Shirley, and Carole.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the many accomplishments of Louis N. Haddad and express sincere gratitude for his accomplishments and contributions to our community and our country.

HONORING DANIEL F. EGAN, JR.,  
AND HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF  
CREDIT UNIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, Daniel F. Egan, Jr., president of the Massachusetts Credit Union League, New Hampshire Credit Union League, and the Rhode Island Credit Union League, has devoted 25 years his professional life to promotion, protection, and prosperity of the credit union movement.

Mr. Egan first distinguished himself as an attorney and legislative advocate for the credit unions of Massachusetts working diligently to ensure that the credit unions of Massachusetts operate in a legal and regulatory environment conducive to providing outstanding financial service to the people of Massachusetts. He continued his service to credit unions, rising to the position of president of the Massachusetts,

New Hampshire, and Rhode Island Credit Union Leagues and through his efforts to provide service to credit unions through unique and forward looking programs he has earned national recognition as credit union leader and visionary.

Through this leadership the credit union leagues of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island joined together in a groundbreaking cooperative management agreement, allowing them to share resources, while maintaining the distinct character of each organization. Mr. Egan has been and continues to be committed to the expansion of the credit union movement throughout the world demonstrated by his support of the World Council of Credit Unions, his field work in Uganda to help establish credit unions there and through the central role he played in creating a relationship between the Massachusetts Credit Union League and the Bahamas Cooperative League to share the experience and expertise of the Massachusetts Credit Union community with the credit unions of the Bahamas.

During his tenure as president of the Massachusetts Credit Union League, New Hampshire Credit Union League, and the Rhode Island Credit Union Leagues, each of those organizations have brought together their member credit union to provide impressive levels of support to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Hampshire and Special Olympics of Rhode Island.

Mr. Egan has continually and eloquently voiced his deep and profound conviction that credit unions make it possible for Americans in all walks of life to lead better, happier and more productive lives and has done so in public, legislative, and educational forums. He has actively participated in fostering the growth and development of credit union leagues nationwide through his active participation in and leadership of the American Association of Credit Union Leagues, serving at various times as an officer and president of that group.

Mr. Egan has, through his commitment to the credit union movement, financial education, and charitable causes, helped to greatly improve the lives of the people of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dan Eagan for his long and distinguished career in public service and to thank him for his continuing commitment to numerous charitable causes that have clearly helped improve the lives of the people of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

IN HONOR OF THE 16TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Since the inception of this landmark legislation in 1990, the ADA has afforded broad anti-discrimination protection for disabled Americans.

The ADA ensures that people with disabilities can access employment, public services,

and transportation. By making sure that disabled citizens are hired on the basis of their abilities rather than their disabilities, this law has given millions of Americans the chance to be treated equally in the workplace. Disabled Americans can no longer be denied access to public places solely on the basis of their handicap. In addition, those who feel that they have been discriminated against have legal recourse to address potential discrimination. These opportunities have established a sense of empowerment where such a sense did not exist before.

Though this legislation has helped countless people, there is surely more work to be done. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 70 percent of working-age Americans with significant disabilities are unemployed. This is the highest unemployment rate of any group of Americans, regardless of their education or qualifications. Many employers are wary of hiring disabled employees for fear of having to make expensive accommodations. Even worse, there still exists a prejudice against those with disabilities simply because of their disabilities. We must educate employees about the enormous potential they are missing or ignoring.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws to have ever been enacted. On this the 6th anniversary, we should acknowledge the noble goal of equality that the ADA aims to achieve. I urge Congress to continue to support this legislation and fight against discrimination throughout our society.

DECLARATION BY 5.2 MILLION  
IRAQIS IN SUPPORT OF THE IRA-  
NIAN MOJAHEDIN KHALQ (MEK)

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 2006, more than 10,000 Iraqis accompanied by delegates from 121 parties and associations took part in the Iraqi people solidarity congress in Ashraf City, Iraq, the declaration by 5.2 million Iraqi citizens, 121 political parties and social groups, 700,000 women, 14,000 lawyers and jurists, 19,000 physicians, 35,000 engineers, 320 clerics, 540 professors, 2,000 tribal sheikhs and 300 local officials were among the signatories of the declaration.

Following is an excerpt from the declaration by 5.2 million Iraqis, partly printed in the New York Times, on June 23, 2006.

The Iranian regime's leaders have repeatedly declared that they have been the first winners of the war in Iraq. Mahmud Ahmadinejad said, "God placed the fruit of the occupation of both our neighboring countries (Iraq and Afghanistan) on Iran's lap." He concluded, "We must be prepared to run the world." (January 5, 2006)

After the elections in Iraq, Iran's Interior Minister announced, "From the ballot boxes in Baghdad and Iraqi provinces, one can hear the Slogans of the Muslim people of Iran." He said, "This major historic Phenomenon attests to the realization" of Khomeini's motto "of conquering Qods (Jerusalem) via Karbala." (Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi, December 22, 2005)

As Iran's rulers acknowledge, nuclear weapons are the strategic Guarantee for their survival. Would nuclear weapons not

also empower them to separate the oil-rich southern territory in Iraq?

As a result:

A. The Iranian regime prevents the establishment of security, Stability and democracy in Iraq and poses an immediate threat to our Country's integrity and liberty. It is the main obstacle to our Independence and the quick departure of the Multi-National Force.

B. Presently, the main dispute is between democracy and Dictatorship. The first and most important political alignment in Iraq is between democratic and patriotic forces with their various inclinations and thoughts on the one hand and affiliates of the Iranian regime on the other.

C. During the elections and formation of the new government of Iraq, an Iraqi alternative was formed against the option presented by Iran's ruling mullahs, thus providing an encouraging prospect for the country.

D. In this geopolitical situation and in this juncture of History, democracy in Iraq and democracy in Iran are interdependent, Guaranteeing each other's survival.

E. The solution and the only encouraging prospect for Neutralizing these threats come through eviction of the Iranian regime from Iraq and recognition of the status of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, which is the principal bulwark against the Iranian regime's interventions. Similarly, the MEK's disarmament upset the strategic balance in this sensitive region of the world in favor of the Iranian regime.

The Iranian regime, however, launched an astounding demonizing and Disinformation campaign against the MEK. Iran's agents in the Interior Ministry kidnapped MEK members while others discontinued the government's allocation of food rations, medicine and fuel for residents of Ashraf City contrary to all Islamic and Iraqi traditions. Through the Iraqi National Security Advisor, the government announced that the MEK "may not even use their allocation of food." (November 18, 2005)

The Iranian regime's fingerprints are evident in paragraph C of Article 21 of the Constitution. Contrary to all international laws on Asylum, this paragraph disentitles the accused of the right to asylum merely based on the unverified charge of terrorism.

Repeated calls by the Iranian regime and its operatives in Iraq for Retribution of the MEK and confiscation of their property (ex. Asshahed weekly, April 4, 2005), the Iranian embassy's advertisements in the Iraqi press demanding "retribution of members of this organization as a more important opening for democracy in Iraq", setting their "prosecution" or at least "expulsion" as a "test" for the government of Iraq (Badr weekly, September 5 and November 27, 2005) and urging their referral to the "Criminal Court" (Asshahed weekly, January 15, 2006) are the most obvious signs of collusion with the Iranian regime.

Having investigated the MEK's 20-year residence in Iraq and stressing their readiness to defend the rights of the MEK in any court of law, over 12,000 Iraqi jurists declared in January 2006, "The MEK has never interfered in Iraq's internal affairs and the claim that the Organization participated in the suppression of the Kurds or Shiites is a sheer lie fabricated by the Iranian regime to tarnish the image of its opposition and alternative."

We urge the following:

1. Agreement of the government of Iraq with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran and the coalition of National Council of Resistance of Iran on a worthwhile legal and political status for them in Iraq;

2. Acknowledgment of MEK members' right to political asylum in Iraq and ensur-

ing respect for their right to own their places and Properties;

3. Modification of article 21C of the Constitution in the Course of reviewing this clause, so that the Iranian regime would not be able to manipulate it against its opposition;

4. Commitment of the government of Iraq to international laws, conventions and agreements on the status of the MEK in Iraq. Particularly with regards to the principle of "non-refoulement" in relocating people from one country to another as verified by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) in the case of the MEK;

5. Coordinated measures by the government of Iraq and the MNF-I to secure the release of the two abducted MEK members.

We declare that:

The terrorist designation of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, 120,000 of whose members and sympathizers have been murdered by the Iranian regime and is the prime victim of state-sponsored terrorism is neither legitimate nor credible and should not be regarded as a basis for relations with this organization.

### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 921, a resolution reaffirming this Chamber's steadfast support for the State of Israel and condemning Hamas and Hezbollah for engaging in unprovoked and reprehensible armed attacks against Israel on undisputed Israeli territory, among other provisions.

On June 16, 2000, Israel unilaterally withdrew its troops from areas in Southern Lebanon. It was a monumental stride in the long and difficult march toward Middle East peace, one that lent if only fleeting promise for a cessation of violence along the Lebanon-Israel border. The idea was simple: Israel would end an occupation long cited as a serious grievance by Israel's foes, and those foes, denied that grievance, would end attacks on Israel. Any further attacks on Israel from formerly occupied areas would invite a robust military response. That equation for peace, however, was quickly undone.

After the withdrawal, Hezbollah and other belligerents boasted not of a promise of peace, but of defeating the Israeli military and forcing it into retreat. Rather than planning for peace and building a strong civil society in Southern Lebanon, Hezbollah created a sophisticated military infrastructure and denied control of the region to the democratically elected Lebanese Government.

One week ago, Hezbollah, following a similar Hamas kidnaping in June, attacked an Israeli military outpost in undisputed Israeli territory, killing three soldiers and taking two hostages. Since then, Hezbollah has continued attacks on Israel by firing deadly rockets into Israeli urban centers like Haifa. Those rockets, whose warheads are often packed with ball bearings that turn into molten shrapnel upon explosion, are meant to kill and maim indiscriminately.

No country in the world would tolerate such vicious attacks upon its homeland nor threats to its sovereignty without responding and acting to ensure its longer-term security. If we support the Israeli State's right to exist, then we cannot make Israel an exception among nations. Israel must possess the right to defend itself.

Lastly, even as this war rages, I believe it is important to work steadfastly toward peace, because there can be no military solution to this conflict. As it combats Hezbollah, I urge Israel to take measures to limit casualties among the civilian population and to not irrevocably undermine Lebanon's young government, which was the product of the inspiring cedar revolution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

### RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES AT NASA'S MICHLOUD ASSEMBLY FACILITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLIE MELANCON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, today I offer House Resolution 892, to give honor and thanks to those who braved Hurricane Katrina's fury in service to their country. As we approach the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I would like to recognize the men and women who stayed behind to protect NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in eastern New Orleans. The "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" was comprised of 38 Lockheed and NASA employees who risked their lives to protect the facility that produces the Space Shuttle external fuel tank, a vital component of the Shuttle program. Were it not for their efforts, the Shuttle program could have been grounded for years. In fact, if Michoud had been destroyed by Katrina, the U.S. would not be able to fulfill its commitment to its international partners, as there would have been no way for the U.S. to ferry vital supplies to equip the International Space Station. The "Ride-Out Team" volunteered to stay and protect valuable space flight hardware critical not only to NASA's Space Shuttle Program, but to the future of human space exploration. The Michoud facility is a vital component of America's Vision for Space Exploration, since derivatives of the external tank are part of the design for the next generation space craft.

As hurricane winds exceeded 130 mph and storm surge topped the 19 ft. levees surrounding the facility, the team worked tirelessly manning the pumping station and generators. After all was said and done, those dedicated individuals pumped more than 1 billion gallons of water out of the facility. Because of their efforts, operations at Michoud resumed mere weeks after Katrina's landfill.

Many of the "Ride-Out Team" lost everything they owned to the storm and many didn't know what had happened to their families until days after the storm had passed. They persevered even though all land routes to the facility had been cut off and they had no electricity or water for 21 days.

For their bravery in the face of unbelievable destruction and their unquestionable dedication to the space program, I ask this body to

recognize the members of the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" and commemorate their heroism and selfless contribution to the United States, and enable America to continue to lead the world in space exploration.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER  
LLOYD BELL

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Walter Lloyd Bell, one of the founding fathers of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Known to his family and friends as Lloyd, he passed away on Saturday, July 15, 2006, at the age of 80.

After serving his country in the Navy during World War II, Lloyd returned to Las Vegas and began his career in law enforcement at the Clark County Sheriff's Office. In 1955, at the age of 29, Lloyd became the youngest person to become County Undersheriff. Three years later, he graduated from the FBI Academy, the first member of the department to do so.

Lloyd served on the Nevada Gaming Control Board from 1961 until 1963, when he rejoined the law enforcement community. In 1968, he served on the committee that created the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department by uniting the Las Vegas Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

Lloyd retired from the Sheriff's Office in 1973 and moved on to the private sector, owning 13 shoe stores and a beauty salon. The ambition and dedication that allowed Lloyd to make such a positive impact on the law enforcement community in Las Vegas made him a successful business owner, as well.

Lloyd was a devoted husband and a proud father who enjoyed spending time with his family. He and his wife Patricia raised two daughters, Ashley Bell and Courtney Bell Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lloyd Bell for his accomplishments and his law enforcement service. I thank him for his participation in the ambitious task of creating the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and I applaud his long record of distinguished service. He has truly had a great impact on the safety and well-being of the Las Vegas community, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE NUGENT FAMILY  
OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rich and Wendy Nugent and their three sons, Ryan, Kyle, and Casey. The Nugent family is being honored by the Disabled American Veterans of Brooksville, Florida for their outstanding service and commitment to the military.

Rich and Wendy Nugent moved from Chicago to Hernando County, Florida in 1984. After receiving their respective degrees in pub-

lic administration and education, Rich joined the police force and Wendy joined the Hernando County school system. Both immediately excelled in their careers, yet remained dedicated to their sons' activities and their family values. Rich and Wendy have continued to be very involved in their sons' lives. All parents understand the difficulty in balancing time between work and family and greatly respect and admire Rich and Wendy for their active commitment and devotion to raising their children.

In 2004, Rich and Wendy's oldest son, Ryan, 25, graduated from West Point Army Academy with a degree in Information Systems Engineering. He has since returned from his service in Korea where he served in the 4th Brigade, 73rd Cavalry, and 82nd Airborne. After earning rank as 1st Lieutenant at pre-Ranger school in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Ryan is currently a lieutenant in the Army taking Ranger courses.

Kyle, 19, graduated from Springstead High School in 2005 with a four-year Army ROTC scholarship to the University of Tampa, where he is currently a sophomore studying Criminology. Having served as commander of the Civil Air Patrol and Chief of Operations for the Air Force ROTC, Kyle has decided to continue his involvement with the military in Tampa. Kyle was also the former captain of Springstead's swim and track team, and was named Athlete of the Year prior to his graduation. Kyle's success in athletics has led him to an esteemed position as the coxswain on the four-man and eight-man rowing team at the University of Tampa.

In 2006, Casey, 18, also graduated from Springstead High School where he served as commander of the Color Guard of the Air Force ROTC and Corps Commander. Following in both of his brothers' footsteps, Casey was captain of Springstead's swim team and active in the Civil Air Patrol. He entered West Point Academy on June 26 and I am very proud and honored to have sponsored his nomination.

With their excellent guidance and active involvement in Ryan, Kyle, and Casey's lives, Rich and Wendy Nugent have raised three very well-rounded and mature young men. In today's society, it is a joy to see a family dedicated to such high family values and committed to serving their country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Nugents, as they truly exemplify what our Nation stands for. Rich and Wendy are admirable parents who deserve recognition for demonstrating the importance of American values and service. Ryan, Kyle, and Casey have become extraordinary young men who are proud and eager to "be all they can be." I would like to thank the Nugents for their exceptional dedication to the United States, and I wish Ryan, Kyle, and Casey the best of luck in their future endeavors. I know they will succeed on whatever path they wish to embark upon.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DALE  
ANTONICH

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Antonich, who is retiring after 33

years of service with the National Park Service.

Dale began his career with the National Park Service as a seasonal park ranger at the Grand Canyon in 1972. For the next four years, Dale held a variety of seasonal laborer, park technician and ranger jobs. His seasonal employment included assignments in the Grand Canyon, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) and Death Valley National Park. In 1977, he accepted a full-time career position as a park technician at Golden Gate National Park. Dale accepted a promotion in 1981 as a park ranger in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. In 1984, Dale moved from the Santa Monica Mountains NRA to the Grand Teton National Park, accepting a promotion to law enforcement specialist park ranger. In 1986, Dale was selected for the Chief Ranger position at Death Valley National Park. He became the Chief Ranger at Lake Mead NRA in 1991, a position he held for the remainder of his career.

Over the course of his 33 year career, Dale has received a number of awards: the Commendation for a Rescue at Grand Canyon, and the Member of Unit Citation for Rescue at Lake Mead in 1974; he received the Commendation for Rescue performed at Golden Gate National Park in 1978; the Sustained Superior Performance Award in 1984; and the U.S. Department of the Interior Award for Rescue in 1991. Dale also received the highest award that can be bestowed upon a ranger by his peers, the Henry Yount Award. He received this award in 1999 from then-Vice President Al Gore.

Dale has dedicated his professional career to the mission of the National Parks Service. He has committed his life to the resources, park visitors, park staff and our partners. He has provided leadership in the development and management of emerging operations, and the professionalization of ranger positions within the National Park System.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dale Antonich for his years spent the National Park Service. Dale's experience, commitment, contributions and dedication to his job will be surely missed. I wish him the best with his retirement.

PROCTER & GAMBLE'S MEHOOPANY,  
PENNSYLVANIA PLANT

**HON. DON SHERWOOD**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very important and significant economic milestone in northeastern Pennsylvania that will be celebrated in August. Procter & Gamble's Mehoopany, Pennsylvania, paper products facility, which has been in operation since 1966, will be commemorating its 40th year with an open house and anniversary ceremonies on August 17, 18 and 19.

The Mehoopany plant is the largest P&G plant in North America. It was the first paper products plant built by Procter & Gamble after the company's acquisition of the Charmin Paper Products Company in 1957. It is one of seven P&G paper products plants in the United States and one of more than 70 plants of all products.

I am very proud of the contribution the plant and its workforce provide to our regional and national economy. As a lifelong resident of Wyoming County, where the plant is located, I have seen friends and neighbors for the past four decades benefit from wonderful career opportunities and the ability to earn an honest, stable living at the Mehoopany plant.

The plant is a cornerstone of economic growth and stability in my region with its 2,300 employees and payroll of \$175,000,000. In addition, there are another 4,000 people employed as suppliers and vendors. Plant employees live in six northeastern Pennsylvania counties—Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming.

Procter & Gamble gives back to the people of the region with community and charitable giving of nearly \$450,000.

The people of my region are very proud of the role the Mehoopany plant plays in providing essential products to the daily lives of our nation's citizens. Consumers in this country benefit from the fine array of paper products, including Bounty towels and napkins, Charmin toilet tissue and Pampers and Luvs Diapers. Products produced at the facility reach over 1,000,000 consumers each day.

I want to offer my congratulations to the employees and management of the Procter & Gamble Mehoopany plant as they celebrate their first 40 years, meet current challenges and look forward to the continued growth of the plant.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL  
JOHN F. GROOM

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Colonel John F. Groom, who passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2006. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on August 8, 2006.

John was originally from Rochester, NY where he attended Brockport State University earning a bachelor's degree. He later attended Syracuse Law School but received his law degree from Western Law School in San Diego after he retired from the military.

Col. Groom had a long and distinguished career with the United States Air Force, highlighted by his command of the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team at Nellis Air Force Base in 1962 and service as an airstrike adviser to Army General William Westmoreland in Vietnam. Col. Groom was in training during World War II, and flew B-29s during the Korean War. In 1965, Col. Groom served as director of inland airstrikes under an effort code-named Tiger Hound. Later, he attended the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. He went on to become the last commander of Wheelus Air Base in Tripoli, Libya, before it closed in 1970. Col. Groom was a key player in the evacuation of Tripoli and was responsible for getting American citizens out of the city following the coup d'Etat led by Moammar Kadafi in 1970.

John spent the last fifteen years of his life living in Las Vegas. John leaves behind his wife Barbara, sons John Jr. and Tom, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker I am proud to honor the life of Col. John F. Groom. His service to this country is admirable and shows that he was truly a patriot. He will surely be missed.

CONGRATULATING COMMANDER  
WILLIAM "BO" STEWART ON THE  
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE UNITED STATES  
NAVY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Commander William "Bo" Stewart, United States Navy, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. I commend Commander Stewart for his 21 years of faithful and selfless service to the United States Navy, and I salute him for his dedication to protecting freedom, ensuring liberty and defending the principles of this country.

A 1983 Citadel graduate, Commander Stewart joined the Navy in 1985. In addition to earning a Masters' Degree in Business Management from Troy State, his formal military education included Aviation Officer Candidate School, where he earned his "Wings of Gold" as a Naval Aviator, SH-3H "Sea King" training and UH-1N training at HC-16.

In 1987 Commander Stewart reported to San Diego, CA for his first assignment with Helicopter Squadron Fourteen, the "Chargers." After completing his tour aboard the USS *Ranger* with the "Chargers," Commander Stewart was stationed at NAS Whiting Field for his first shore tour as a flight instructor for Helicopter Training Squadron Eight. In 1993, he returned to sea duty aboard the USS *Nassau* serving as the Assistant Air Officer and Aircraft Handling Officer, deploying to Haiti and the Adriatic Sea. Following this assignment, he was ordered back to shore in Jacksonville, FL where he served as the Officer in Charge of the Surface Rescue Swimmer School and as an instructor pilot in the SH-3H and SH-60F/H at Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron One (HS-1), the "Sea Horses."

Commander Stewart returned to sea in 1997 joining Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Five, the "Night Dippers," as the Maintenance Officer, deploying from USS *John C. Stennis* and USS *John F. Kennedy*. In 1999, Commander Stewart went to the Naval Personnel Command where he served as Deputy Director and Director of Restricted Line and Staff Corps Distribution and Special Placement Division. In February of 2003, Commander Stewart assumed his final post as Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL.

Commander Stewart's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal, along with other personal and unit citations. During his naval career, Commander Stewart accumulated over 4,000 hours of flight time in the following airframes: SH-60F/H, SH-3H/D, UH-1, TH-57, and T-34C.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Stewart answered the call to duty with an unmatched determination. Through his honorable service he gave

so much to Pensacola, our Navy, and our Nation. He will be missed by the United States Navy, but he leaves a great legacy behind for future generations to follow.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL  
MURPHY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Michael Murphy, for his service as Clark County Coroner and recognition as the 2006 Clark County Director of the Year.

Before embarking on a law enforcement career, Michael earned a doctorate in Business Administration from California Pacific University. He began his service career in Kansas City, Kansas as a police officer, and after moving to Nevada, Michael became a captain with the Boulder City Police Department. He later served as the Chief of Police for nine years with the City of Mesquite Police Department. He then moved on to the position of Commander at the City of Las Vegas Department of Detention and Enforcement, and was quickly promoted to Deputy Chief.

In addition to his law enforcement service, Michael takes the time to share his expertise with others as a guest lecturer and instructor, including speaking to law enforcement agencies in Russia, China, and Azerbaijan.

Currently, as Clark County Coroner, Michael uses his thirty years of experience to manage programs, staff, and policy objectives, among other things. Michael is intrigued by the science of his office, despite his lack of scientific training. Since his appointment as Coroner in May of 2003, he has led the coroner's office in establishing a Cold Case Unit, which has since closed an amazing 29 cases. He also served for six months as acting Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services until a new director was found. Despite the long and taxing hours required by his position, he finds his work as Coroner to be one of the most fulfilling jobs he's had.

In June of 2006, during the Clark County Employee Service Awards, where the unwavering efforts of those who serve the public and efficiently spend taxpayer dollars are recognized, Michael's innovation and hard work earned him the title of "Director of the Year."

Of all that Michael has to be proud of, his family tops the list. His 26-year-old son, Brandon, and his daughter-in-law, Megan, are expecting their first daughter, to be named Caitlin, in August.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Michael Murphy for his outstanding service as Clark County Coroner. I congratulate him on being named Clark County Director of the Year, and commend his dedication to law enforcement in Nevada. Michael is a very good friend and serves as a role model for us all.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR  
RICHARD SCHNEIDER'S SERVICE  
TO WEST TENNESSEE

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who has become an important leader in west Tennessee, a journalist who has helped bring together a community, and a good friend of mine, Richard Schneider. After 14 years as executive editor of the Jackson Sun, Dick is moving to Florida to fill that same position at the Pensacola News Journal.

Since Dick came to Jackson in 1992, the Sun has moved from an afternoon paper to a morning paper, launched its Web site, broadened its coverage and publications, expanded its circulation and changed the way west Tennesseans get their news and information.

When our region was hit by tornadoes—first in 1999, again in May 2003 and yet again in April of this year—the Sun's news staff, under Dick's leadership, provided excellent and in-depth coverage of the storms, the fatalities they caused, the lives they touched, the communities they devastated and the rebuilding that still continues today. West Tennesseans will always appreciate the information they received from the Jackson Sun during those trying times.

The paper has also provided thorough coverage on other issues facing our area, including crime, health care, mortality, religion, veterans care, and race relations. Dick and the Jackson Sun have been recognized nationally by Gannett, the Associated Press and other organizations for the innovative ways the newspaper has increased its community outreach.

I have also enjoyed getting to know Dick on a personal level over the years. Jackson will miss Dick and his wife Lea, as well as their three children, Troy, Ashley, and Nicole. They have been important to our community over the years, and we wish them all the best.

Mr. Speaker, please join our colleagues and me in thanking Richard Schneider for his service to west Tennessee and congratulating him on his new opportunity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER  
CUCHINE

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Cuchine for earning the Distinguished Nevadan Award, the most prestigious award given by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. The award recognizes the achievements of those who have contributed to the cultural, scientific, or social advancement of Nevada.

Walter has helped to preserve the history of Nevada, especially Hawthorne, Lovelock, Ely, Fallon, and Lincoln County, as a Humanist-in-Residence, sponsored by the Nevada Humanities Committee. His experience studying Nevada's environment and history helped him to

become the Director of the Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely, and since 1993 he has served as the Eureka County Facilities Director, where he is responsible for programming at the Eureka Opera House and the Eureka Sentinel Museum. Through his position with Eureka County and as Humanist-in-Residence, Walter works with the Rural Presenters Network, the Nevada Commission on Tourism, and other organizations to encourage numerous groups to visit Eureka and enjoy its history and cultural sites.

Walter's passion for Nevada's history has also led him to become one of the foremost collectors of contemporary Nevada art and the owner of a book collection featuring Nevada-related works. Last summer, the Nevada Historical Society presented an exhibit featuring his art collection, which broke all of the society's previous attendance records.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Walter Cuchine, winner of the Distinguished Nevadan Award and supporter of Nevada's historic and cultural needs. His fundraising efforts and foundation of the Emerald Society have made a tremendous impact on the Las Vegas community.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.  
AND MRS. JAMES RUSSELL  
CASH, III

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,  
Whereas, J.R. and Allison Cash were united in marriage June 3, 2006 in Cadiz, Ohio; and  
Whereas, J.R. and Allison Cash have dedicated their lives to each other; and

Whereas, J.R. and Allison Cash shared their wedding day with family and friends; and

Whereas, J.R. and Allison Cash have illustrated the love and commitment necessary to live a long and beautiful life together.

Therefore, I join with their family, friends, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating J.R. and Allison Cash on the occasion of their marriage.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEONARD  
GOODALL

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard Goodall for earning the Distinguished Nevadan Award, the most prestigious award given by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. The award recognizes the achievements of those who have contributed to the cultural, scientific, or social advancement of Nevada.

Leonard has a long history of service in education. He began his career as a professor at Arizona State University in 1962. He moved on to become Vice Chancellor of the University of Illinois-Chicago and then Chancellor of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Leonard moved to Las Vegas in 1979, where he served as University of Nevada, Las Vegas

President and as a professor of Public Administration. Since his retirement, Leonard has served on the Nevada System of Higher Education's Retirement Plan Alternatives Committee.

Leonard has also had an impressive career as a writer, authoring or co-authoring eight books and countless articles on economics, government, and public administration. After his experiences living and working in Las Vegas, he co-authored "Nevada Government and Politics: Conservatism in an Open Society" and "Reinventing the System: Higher Education in Nevada."

Leonard has also been active in the community. He has served on the board of local chapters of numerous organizations, including the American Red Cross, the American Society for Public Administration, the Nevada Development Authority, and the Boulder Dam Council of Boy Scouts. He aided in the foundation of the Commercial Bank of Nevada, currently serving as its chairman of the board of directors, and he was appointed by the Clark County Commission to serve as the chairman of the Community Growth Task Force, a position he currently holds.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Leonard Goodall, a role model to the community and accurately named Distinguished Nevadan. His dedication to educating our future leaders and his passion for community service are truly admirable.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF MARK  
LAYHEW

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition, and with thanks, for the 31½ years of exemplary service Police Chief Mark Layhew has given to the City of Simi Valley, California, as he prepares for his retirement next month.

Mr. Speaker, Simi Valley is my home. I served as mayor there for seven 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.

Mark has the distinction of being the first Simi Valley police officer to rise from the ranks as an entry level officer to Chief of Police. In many ways he epitomizes the maturity and professionalism of the department. Mark began with the department just four years after the city incorporated and he helped to shape it. He is not only the face of the Simi Valley Police Department, he is very much its soul.

Mark acquired his sense of duty from his late father, who gave a lifetime of dedicated service to his country as an FBI agent.

During his three decades with the department, Mark Layhew served in virtually every position. He served as an Operations Division Captain, Support Services Division Captain, Detective Unit Commander, SWAT Commander, Traffic Unit Commander, Watch Commander, and Special Administrative Commands.

And that's just as a lieutenant and captain.

As a sergeant, he served as a Patrol Field Supervisor, Field Training Program Manager, and Detective Supervisor. As an officer, he served as a Patrol Officer, Traffic Officer, Field Training Officer, Rangemaster, Academy Staff Officer, Planning and Research Officer, and Background Investigator.

Mark earned a bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge, and is a graduate of POST Command College Class #26, Simi Valley Leadership Class of 1999, and the 2004 POST Executive Development Course. In his spare time, he serves as a member of the Simi Sunrise Rotary and is a board member of the Simi Valley Education Foundation and the Simi Valley Police Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking my friend Mark Layhew for his decades of service to the City of Simi Valley and his country, and in wishing him, his wife, Holly, and their children Godspeed.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN PAGE

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Page for earning the Distinguished Nevadan Award, the most prestigious award given by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. The award recognizes the achievements of those who have contributed to the cultural, scientific, or social advancement of Nevada.

Kevin has had an impressive academic career, graduating from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a bachelor's degree in finance in 1986 and an MBA one year later. He continued his involvement with UNLV through 2005 as a member of the Alumni Board, and served as board president for three of those years.

As a founding member of the Police and Fire Emerald Society of Nevada, he has been committed to helping children and youth succeed, caring for families in need, and honoring fallen heroes. From 2001 to 2004, he led Run for Heroes in raising scholarship money for the families of fallen law enforcement members and fire fighters, and helped shift some of that fundraising to the Golf for Heroes program in 2004.

Kevin's interest in helping students goes beyond the families of law enforcement and fire officials. Through his Kiwanis Club membership, he has raised more scholarship money for high school Key Clubs and to support Clark County School District Varsity Quiz programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Kevin Page, winner of the Distinguished Nevadan Award and dedicated volunteer. His fundraising efforts and foundation of the Emerald Society have made a tremendous impact on the Las Vegas community.

#### TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate Montgomery County, Maryland, on being recognized for the third straight year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership as one of the Nation's top ten local government green power purchasers.

For many years, Montgomery County has set a precedent for the consumption of renewable energy sources. Its buying group, which is now at the forefront of an innovative and unique wind energy purchase, was noted by the EPA as one of the top 25 largest national purchasers of green power. Its pioneering purchases have promoted a cleaner and more environmentally-safe approach to energy consumption in our community. Furthermore, this purchase also represents the Nation's first effort on the part of a local government to include renewable energy in the State's plan to implement air quality improvements under the federal Clean Air Act.

Montgomery County has long been a leader in the field of clean energy. In 2004, under Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan's leadership, the County began purchasing five percent of its energy from wind. In April 2006, County Executive Duncan and the County Council committed to increasing the County's renewable energy purchase to 20 percent of its total electricity use over the next 5 years. Significantly, Montgomery County has been actively encouraging residents to join these efforts by purchasing clean energy for their homes, businesses, and community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Montgomery County, Maryland, for its groundbreaking commitment to increasing the overall consumption of renewable energy sources now and in the years to come.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARIE McMILLAN

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marie Stever Daly McMillan for earning the Distinguished Nevadan Award, the most prestigious award given by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. The award recognizes achievements of those who have contributed to the cultural, scientific, or social advancement of Nevada.

In 1957, Marie and her husband, Duke Daly, moved to Nevada to work at the Nevada Test Site during the pioneering nuclear testing era, and developed and implemented protocols for the management of classified documents. Her work in this capacity was vital, as the nuclear information had to be kept secret, but still available to the scientists working on the projects.

Although her work to preserve the confidentiality of nuclear secrets was important, her

aviation career is what she is best known for. In 1978, Marie learned that the U.S. Aeronautic Association was looking for pilots to break records in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Wright brothers' flight. She decided not to break a record, but to set a new one. On December 16, 1978, she set her first record for speed between two cities. Over the next 10 years, Marie set hundreds more, and she currently holds 656 aviation records.

In addition to setting records, Marie has served as the U.S. Delegate to numerous Federation Aeronautique International Conferences, and she has won many awards and honors. She served as a flight instructor for over 25 years, where she taught people, from teenagers and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officers, how to fly. She also served for 10 years as Clark County Department of Aviation public information representative to McCarran Airport, where she had the opportunity to teach schoolchildren about aviation careers.

Dedicated to encouraging young women to pursue careers in aviation and technical fields, Marie has developed a local "Wings" program as a part of the Girl Scouts. She also has devoted countless hours and her plane to carry medical personnel and supplies to Mexico and, through Wings for Direct Relief, transported supplies to California so they could be shipped to South America.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Marie McMillan, winner of the Distinguished Nevadan Award and aviation pioneer. I commend her dedication to the community, which exemplifies her strong character, innovation, leadership, and service.

#### HONORING THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 384, a resolution recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans.

Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., has provided voice, vision, and pride to the struggle of African-Americans and persons of African descent around the globe.

Alpha Phi Alpha, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country. The visionary founders, known as the "Jewels" of the fraternity, are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy.

The fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell. Alpha Phi Alpha chapters quickly spread to other colleges and universities, many of them historically black institutions, soon after the founding at Cornell. While

continuing to stress academic excellence among its members, Alpha also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African-Americans and persons of African descent around the world.

The Jewel founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. These principles of this organization hold true to this very day.

Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as: W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, and Paul Robeson.

For almost a century, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and all the "Brothers of the Black & Old Gold," the official colors of the fraternity, have continuously served their community, country, people, and each other in a manner that is befitting of an organization of such character, dignity, and commitment. I, too, am a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha, and it is an honor to be a part of an organization with such a rich legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans. Please vote in support of H. Con. Res. 384.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALISON  
KASNER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Alison Kasner for her dedication to education and for her outstanding service to southern Nevada.

Alison has served as the principal of Helen J. Stewart School for the past 5 years and is retiring this summer from a distinguished career with the Clark County School District. She began teaching school in southern Nevada at the age of 20. During her career, Alison served the school district in a variety of capacities. She has taught elementary through high school age students and also served as a transitional counselor before becoming principal at Helen J. Stewart School.

Although Alison Kasner has devoted a great deal of her life to education, what is perhaps most impressive about her is her dedication to special needs students. Helen J. Stewart School is a very special school within the Clark County School District that serves the educational needs of students between the ages of 6 and 22 who have significant mental and developmental challenges. The school's mission is to provide an education specifically tailored to the needs of its students so that all students have the opportunity to reach optimum development and become as self-sufficient as possible.

Alison first became acquainted with Stewart School and its mission after visiting the campus on a field trip her freshman year of high

school. As a result of that experience, Alison volunteered at Helen J. Stewart throughout high school and remained involved with the school throughout her career. Since becoming principal of the school, Alison has served her students and her colleagues with vision, determination and a commitment to achieving excellence. Her compassion for others, her desire to serve and her enthusiasm for special education has made an indelible impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Alison Kasner for her service as an educator and for her dedication to special needs students. Although she will certainly be missed at Helen J. Stewart School, I know that she will continue to contribute her time, talent, and perspective in ways that will benefit and enrich the world around her. I wish Alison the very best in her retirement and in all her future endeavors.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 5684, UNITED STATES-  
OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
IMPLEMENTATION ACT.

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the Oman Free Trade Agreement (OFTA).

The Bush administration has again presented the Congress with a flawed trade agreement. I support vigorous international trade, but it should also be fair trade.

The inadequate labor provisions in this agreement are almost identical to those contained in the flawed Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), which I opposed. After the contentious vote on DR-CAFTA, the United States Trade Representative said he would address the concerns we raised in future agreements. Unfortunately nothing has changed.

OFTA does little to improve the poor protection for workers in Oman. The labor provisions in this trade agreement are lackluster, and will be very hard to enforce. This trade agreement asks Oman only to meet the lowest possible dominator of labor law. We can and we must do better.

Currently, Oman labor laws do not provide for the freedom to associate or the rights to organize and bargain collectively, the most fundamental of workers rights. There are no protections for workers who want to strike in Oman, and there are no independent unions. Oman has said it will change, but it does not have to. These promises should be included as requirements in this agreement, not in unenforceable side letters.

As I have said before, international trade is not just inevitable, it is a good thing. It has enormous potential to raise standards across the globe, disseminate technology and encourage economic growth. But lowering the cost of goods and increasing their availability is not the single goal of trade. Trade should also lift the global standard of living. Trade agreements are not just about goods and commodities; they are also about what constitutes acceptable behavior in workers' rights, environmental matters, intellectual property, and so forth. We should make sure we export the

goods we produce and not the workers who produce them. Like the DR-CAFTA and Bahrain Free Trade Agreements, the Oman Free Trade Agreement does not pass these tests. The agreement before us fails both parties: it will not help either America's or Oman's workers.

Each new trade agreement entered into by the United States ought to be closely scrutinized, and ought to include the strongest enforceable worker rights and environmental safeguards attainable. We know how to craft such agreements, for example the U.S.-Jordan Agreement of 2000 was a fair and good agreement. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has abandoned that successful format and pushed ahead with a trade policy that only looks at the bottom line, rather than the workers who produced the goods or the environment they live in and rely upon for sustainable growth.

We need to go back to the successful format that incorporates American values into our trade agreements. This would ensure that U.S. companies and employees are not forced to compete with countries that have no or weak labor laws, poor working conditions, and a willingness to debase the environment for the short term. The people of all countries lose in such a "race to the bottom".

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support OFTA or other flawed trade agreements.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES  
KENNY LEAVITT

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend for more than 20 years, Charles "Charlie" Leavitt. Charlie will be retiring from a career in general engineering contracting on August 15, 2006.

Charlie was born on "the old Stewart Ranch" in Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 24, 1942. His class of 1960 was Rancho High School's first graduating class. After graduation, he worked as a parking attendant for many of the hotel and casinos up and down the Las Vegas Strip, including the Stardust Hotel and the Dunes Hotel and Casino, which is now the Bellagio Hotel and Casino. He then went to work on the Virgin River Gorge Project as an engineer. This project provides a transportation route from Las Vegas, through Arizona, and into Utah.

In 1974, Charlie joined the Warrants Division of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and served until 1979. He then went to the Caesar's Palace Hotel and Casino as a doorman and parking attendant. After running the front of that hotel for many years, he, along with his brother and nephews, moved to the Tropicana Hotel to help with their failing parking situation.

After marrying the love of his life Margaret "Peggy" on March 16, 1984, he started his own excavation company called Charles K. Leavitt Excavation in 1987, now known as CLK Incorporated. CLK Inc. serves the Las Vegas, Henderson, and Boulder City areas.

Charlie is very active in the community, serving in the Sunrise Rotary, and has served in many leadership positions in the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He is an avid and accomplished golfer, and has won the Boulder City Men's Club Tournament.

His greatest accomplishment is being the proud father of his four sons Michael Glen, Christopher Keoni, Glen Kaimi, and Charles Kelley. He also loves his daughters-in-law, Leanna and Rebecca. However, his greatest joy comes from spending time with his six grand-children Tommy (19), Connor (8), Garrett (6), Olivia (4), Rory (3), Wyatt (2), and one on the way Delaney, who will be born in August.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Charles Leavitt on the floor of the House. I commend him for his contributions to southern Nevada and congratulate him on his retirement.

EXPANDING HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT  
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2006*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5121. I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting for this bill to expand homeownership and the American Dream to our fellow Americans.

In my district of Houston, Texas, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that approximately 46 percent of housing units are owned by their inhabitants. This needs to change and it is our job in Congress to extend the opportunities of homeownership and the American Dream to all within our Nation.

I commend those of my colleagues that have brought this issue to the floor today and

think it is fantastic that we are doing more to help those who wish to become homeowners by making the Federal Housing Administration more than a last resort. By including 100 percent financing for those wishing to purchase housing up to the median housing price, we address the needs of more Americans than before. In addition, giving attention to middle-income borrowers provides the FHA with additional funds to be able to help low-income borrowers as well.

This bill puts money in the system while helping our Nation's citizens become homeowners and I thank my colleagues for working so hard on a comprehensive solution to the lack of homeownership in areas of our country.

I look forward to seeing this bill passed and witnessing its positive impacts within my own community. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation to expand homeownership and extend the American Dream to all.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine recovery and reconstitution of critical networks relating to cyber security, focusing on immediate steps that Department of Homeland Security and the private sector can take to formalize a partnership and to ensure effective response and recovery to major cyber network disruption.  
 SD-342

JULY 31

3 p.m.  
 Foreign Relations  
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Mark R. Dybul, of Florida, to be Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally, with the rank of Ambassador.  
 SD-419

AUGUST 1

9 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Investigations Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the issue of tax havens and offshore abuses which are undermining the integrity of the Federal tax system, focusing on case histories on the use of offshore trusts and corporations to circumvent U.S. tax, securities and anti-money laundering laws.  
 SD-106

10 a.m.  
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew von Eschenbach, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, and Paul DeCamp, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor; to be followed by a business meeting to consider pending nominations.  
 SD-430

2 p.m.  
 Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.  
 SD-226

2:15 p.m.  
 Foreign Relations  
 Business meeting to consider Treaty Between the United States and the Oriental Republic Of Uruguay Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annexes and Protocol, signed at Mar Del Plata, Argentina, on November 4, 2005 (Treaty Doc. 109-9), United Nations Convention Against Corruption (the "Corruption Convention"), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on October 31, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 109-6), and the nominations of Richard E. Hoagland, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, Christina B. Rocca, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, and a Foreign Service Officer Promotion List.  
 S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.  
 Armed Services  
 To hold hearings to examine the Boeing Company Global Settlement Agreement.  
 SH-216

Environment and Public Works  
 Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine interpreting the effect of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in the joint cases of *Rapanos v. United States* and *Carabell v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* on "The Waters of the United States".  
 SD-406

AUGUST 2

9 a.m.  
 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
 Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine H.R. 4200, to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by cata-

strophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests.  
 SR-328A

9:30 a.m.  
 Environment and Public Works  
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the Toxic Substances Control Act and the chemicals management program at Environmental Protection Agency.  
 SD-406

Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine the authority to prosecute terrorists under the war crime provisions of Title 18.  
 SD-226

10 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 To hold hearings to examine the status of Iraq construction, focusing on contracting and procurement issues.  
 SD-342

11:30 a.m.  
 Energy and Natural Resources  
 Business meeting to consider the nominations of John Ray Correll, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and Mark Myers, of Alaska, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, both of the Department of the Interior, and Drue Pearce, of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and other pending calendar business.  
 SD-628

2:30 p.m.  
 Judiciary  
 Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine creating a fair standard for attorney's fee awards in establishment clause cases.  
 SD-226

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
 Housing and Transportation Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine efforts to meet the housing needs of veterans.  
 SD-538

AUGUST 3

10 a.m.  
 Energy and Natural Resources  
 To hold hearings to examine S. 2589, to enhance the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, to ensure protection of public health and safety, to ensure the territorial integrity and security of the repository at Yucca Mountain.  
 SD-628

POSTPONEMENTS

AUGUST 1

9:30 a.m.  
 Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine the Thompson Memorandum's effect on the right to counsel in corporate investigations.  
 SD-226