

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MARY SCOTT-HALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mary Scott-Hallof Saint Joseph, Missouri. Mary is a leader in the Girl Scouts, representing the Midland Empire for over seven years, and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in Volunteerism.

As a leader in the Girl Scouts, Mary has gone beyond her expected role, helping to grow the community's interest and excitement for the Girl Scouts. She has organized a variety of service projects for her troop, including donations to the YWCA Women's Abuse Shelter and America's Second Harvest Food Bank. As the Day Camp director for the St. Joseph area, she has provided exceptional programs to over 100 girls each summer. Additionally donating her time to Camp Woodland, she was responsible for preparing meals and programs for up to 150 girls and adults.

Her achievements to the Girl Scouts are highly recognized. Her troop built the Manley Tillison Outdoor Classroom, a part of the troop's Silver Medal Award project. In addition, she has been given the Girl Scouts Outstanding Volunteer Pin by her peers and received the Service to Mankind Award from the St. Joseph Downtown Sertoma Club.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Mary Scott-Hall. Her commitment to the Girl Scouts and service in the community are to be admired. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CARLSON COMPANIES INC., AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS, FLAMINGO TRAVEL, AND ELA BRASIL TOURS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, sex tourism and more specifically the sexual commercial exploitation of children has increasingly become a serious problem. The International Labor Organization estimates that approximately 550,000–700,000 children are forced into sexual exploitation each year. I, therefore, rise to salute the Carlson Companies Inc., the American Society of Travel Agents, ASTA, Flamingo Travel in Philadelphia and Ela Brasil in New York City for signing the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children From Sexual Commercial Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. They have taken a bold stand against the sexual exploitation of children and should be recognized for their actions.

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children From Sexual Commercial Exploitation

in Travel and Tourism was developed by End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, ECPAT, along with World Tourism Organization, WTO, and has been funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). By signing the Code of Conduct, travel and tourism companies commit to take a series of steps to ensure that they are not facilitating the trafficking of children for purposes of prostitution. Law enforcement cannot do it alone. It takes a multifaceted approach to discourage sex tourism.

The Code of Conduct requires that the tourism or travel company establish an ethical policy regarding sexual exploitation of children; train its personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations; introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers requiring that they repudiate commercial sexual exploitation of children; provide information to travelers by means of catalogues, brochures, inflight films, and ticket slips; provide information to local "key persons" at the destinations; and report annually to the Code International Steering Committee and the Secretariat at the WTO.

By reporting yearly, the companies share their experiences and allow for annual monitoring and evaluation of the progress and outcomes of their endeavors. A Steering Committee made up of international independent and voluntary representatives along with ECPAT supervise the Code implementation.

Internationally, more than two hundred companies have signed the Code of Conduct. The United States, however, has lagged far behind. That is why the willingness of Carlson Companies Inc., Flamingo Travel, Ela Brasil and ASTA to sign the Code is so significant. The Carlson Companies Inc. is ranked as one of the largest privately held corporations in America. Among its brands and services are Regent International Hotels, Radisson Hotels, Country Inns and Suites, Park Plaza, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Cruise Holidays, Results Travel, Raddison Seven Seas Cruises, and Carlson Marketing Group.

Since signing the Code of Conduct, Carlson Companies Inc. has put information about sex tourism and commercial exploitation of children on its company website, has run ads and included editorial content in its hotel publications, and has included information about this issue on their ticket stock. Flamingo Travel, Ela Brasil and ASTA have taken similar steps in implementing the Code of Conduct.

These companies are trailblazers in combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Their bold stand could save lives. Significantly their forthright commitment on this issue puts pressure on other American companies in travel and tourism to sign the Code of Conduct as well.

Mr. Speaker, for all the foregoing reasons, I ask my the colleagues to join me in applauding the Carlson Companies Inc., ASTA, Flamingo Travel, and Ela Brasil for their commitment to implementing the Code of Conduct and fighting one of the world's cruelest and most devastating industries.

DISTURBING ECONOMIC TRENDS IN PUERTO RICO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the disturbing economic trends in Puerto Rico detailed in recently released reports by the General Accountability Office (GAO), and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT). Taken together, these finely written and well-documented studies paint a bleak picture of an island that—instead of being a model of economic development—has fallen further behind the 50 states.

Nothing could be clearer from these reports than that we have failed the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico miserably for over 50 years. Not because of bad intentions, or because of some sort of benign neglect, but because of failed policies that have provided few, if any, of their promised benefits. These studies vividly demonstrate the need for a different approach that will more directly benefit the residents of Puerto Rico, including making them eligible for the refundable portion of the child tax credit, which I proposed in legislation introduced earlier this Congress (H.R. 4451).

These studies paint a fairly stark picture of the ways in which Federal policies have markedly neglected working Americans in Puerto Rico, by denying them basic support accorded to families in the rest of the United States who are struggling to make ends meet.

The focus of the GAO report is the economy of Puerto Rico during the phase-out of the Possessions Tax Credit ("Sec. 936"), the cornerstone of the U.S. tax policy in Puerto Rico until Congress repealed it in 1996. GAO (and an independent study by the Brookings Institution), determined that the repeal of Sec. 936 to a significant degree did not cause the companies that had previously taken advantage of the program to flee the island; instead concluding that "a substantial amount of possession corporation activity has been continued by other types of businesses," primarily by the companies conversion to controlled foreign corporations, which do not have to pay taxes on their PR source income. As such, the GAO provides the most comprehensive and objective assessment that while corporate structures have changed, underlying economic activity has not markedly changed during the Sec. 936 phase-out.

The bottom line conclusion is that the tax policies that have been in place have failed to put Puerto Rico on a path toward equality with the mainland. Growth has been insufficient to reduce the gap in per capita income (one third that of the mainland), living standards (four times the number of people live below the poverty level) and unemployment (twice as high as the mainland)—nor improve the abysmally low labor force participation rate. Clearly the data supports the conclusion that the past approach has had little—if any—direct and

• 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.

positive effect on the welfare of individuals living and working on the island.

The JCT study points out that tax incentives such as Sec. 936 cannot be permanent additions to the Internal Revenue Code, and that there are market distortions associated with these incentives. While not opining on a preferred approach, JCT states that other options might gain a higher rate of return. JCT surveys some of these options, putting them in the context of the various political status alternatives. Unfortunately, JCT articulates the costs, but dodges the really big question of measuring the possible economic benefits of the different status options (independence, statehood, or continued commonwealth status).

Most importantly, the JCT study points out how much misguided federal tax policies have neglected the people of Puerto Rico—and point to a direction that would clearly have a measurable, positive, impact on the very people who need it most: the working poor of Puerto Rico. This is through application of work incentives available to working families in the 50 states: the per-child tax credit (CTC) and Earned Income Credit (EIC), both of which are available to working families on the mainland to offset payroll taxes (which are also paid by residents of Puerto Rico).

By paying payroll taxes for Social Security and Medicare without receiving the earned income tax credit, working families in Puerto Rico face a heavily regressive tax burden. To illustrate, a Puerto Rican on the island who files as a head of household with two children and \$20,000 of income has a total Federal tax liability of \$792. Yet that filer's brother in New York with the same income and family circumstances would receive a tax refund of \$3,708. According to the JCT study, simply making Puerto Ricans eligible for the EITC would provide an annual fiscal stimulus of \$540 million directly to the local economy, which some estimates show would reduce tax burdens on over 90 percent of taxpayers (about 950,000 taxpayer returns).

My legislation, making families eligible for the child tax credit (now applicable only to families of 3 or more), would further reduce taxes for another 32 percent of all tax filers or about 560,000 taxpayers (and add another \$180 million, annually, to the local economy). Independent analysis shows that these targeted tax credits would be up to 40 percent more effective in stimulating the economy than failed subsidies we have tried, which amount to billions of dollars every year (and continue to this day).

In closing, let me say, I applaud GAO and JCT for drawing our attention to the problem of Puerto Rico's economy. The ball is now in our court. It is the responsibility of this Congress to implement new policies. I am not sure what all these policies should be, but do know that what we have tried did not work, and that we should consider a range of options—including my own legislation—with an eye toward what would best serve the nearly four million U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico, who need and deserve our help. I urge my colleagues to move forward expeditiously in this effort.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006, a bipartisan measure to provide support for the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Republic of Belarus, as well as encourage the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus' sovereignty and independence. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Representatives LANTOS and McCOTTER, as original cosponsors.

Three years ago, I introduced the Belarus Democracy Act which passed the House and Senate with overwhelming support and was signed into law by President Bush in October 2004. At that time, the situation in Belarus with respect to democracy and human rights was already abysmal. Belarus continues to have the worst rights record of any European state, rightly earning the country the designation as Europe's last dictatorship. Bordering on the EU and NATO, Belarus is truly an anomaly in a democratic, free Europe.

The need for a sustained U.S. commitment to foster democracy and respect for human rights and to sanction the regime of Belarus' tyrant, Alexander Lukashenka, is clear from the intensified anti-democratic policies pursued by the current leadership in Minsk. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that the United States is not alone in this noble cause. Countries throughout Europe have joined in a truly trans-Atlantic effort to bring hope of freedom to the beleaguered people of Belarus. Prompt passage of the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 will help maintain the momentum sparked by adoption of the 2004 law and the further deterioration of the situation on the ground in Belarus. Indeed, with the further deterioration in Belarus with the massive arrests of recent weeks, this bill is needed now more than ever.

One of the primary purposes of the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 is to demonstrate sustained U.S. support for Belarus' independence and for those struggling to promote democracy and respect for human rights in Belarus despite the formidable pressures and personal risks they face from the anti-democratic regime. The bill authorizes \$20 million in assistance for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for democracy-building activities such as support for non-governmental organizations, including youth groups, independent trade unions and entrepreneurs, human rights defenders, independent media, democratic political parties, and international exchanges.

The bill also authorizes \$7.5 million for each fiscal year for surrogate radio and television broadcasting to the people of Belarus. While I am encouraged by the recent U.S. and EU initiatives with respect to radio broadcasting, much more needs to be done to break through Lukashenka's stifling information blockade.

In addition, this legislation would impose sanctions against the Lukashenka regime, and deny senior officials of the regime—as well as those engaged in human rights and electoral abuses, including lower-level officials—entry

into the United States. In this context, I welcome the targeted punitive sanctions by both the Administration and the EU against officials, including judges and prosecutors, involved in electoral fraud and other human rights abuses.

Strategic exports to the Government of Belarus would be prohibited, except for those intended for democracy building or humanitarian purposes, as well as U.S. Government financing and other foreign assistance, except for humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products. The U.S. Executive Directors of the international financial institutions would be encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance that serve humanitarian needs. Furthermore, the bill would block Belarus Government and senior leadership and their surrogates' assets in property and interests in property in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons. To this end, I welcome the Treasury Department's April 10 advisory to U.S. financial institutions to guard against potential money laundering by Lukashenka and his cronies and strongly applaud President Bush's June 19 "Executive Order Blocking Property of Certain Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Belarus."

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it absolutely clear that these sanctions are aimed not at the people of Belarus, whose desire to be free we unequivocally support, but at a regime that displays contempt for the dignity and rights of its citizens even as the corrupt leadership moves to further enrich itself at the expense of the people.

Mr. Speaker, Belarus stands out as an even greater anomaly following Ukraine's historic Orange Revolution and that country's March 26th free and fair parliamentary elections which stand in glaring contrast to Belarus' presidential elections held just one week earlier. The Belarusian elections can only be described as a farce. The Lukashenka regime's wholesale arrests of more than one thousand opposition activists, before and after the elections, and violent suppression of post-election protests underscore the utter contempt of the Belarusian authorities toward the people of Belarus.

Illegitimate parliamentary elections in 2004 and the recently held presidential "elections" in Belarus brazenly flaunted democratic standards. As a result of these elections, Belarus has the distinction of lacking legitimate presidential and parliamentary leadership, which contributes to that country's self-imposed isolation.

Lukashenka, the Bully of Belarus, has repeatedly unleashed his security thugs to trample on the rights of their fellow citizens. Indeed, they demonstrated what Lukashenka truly thinks about his own people. Nevertheless, courageous peaceful protesters on Minsk's central October Square stood up to the regime with dignity and determination. Almost daily repressions constitute a profound abuse of power by a regime that has blatantly manipulated the system to remain in power.

Albeit safely ensconced in power, Lukashenka has not let up on the democratic opposition. On July 17, in a particularly punitive display against those who dare oppose Lukashenka, former presidential candidate Aleksandr Kozulin was sentenced to an obviously politically motivated 5½ years' term of

imprisonment for alleged “hooliganism” and disturbing the peace. Democratic opposition leaders such as Anatoly Lebedka and Vincuk Viachorka have been arbitrarily detained and sentenced to jail terms which have been as much as 15 days. Last month, opposition activists Artur Finkevich received a two-year corrective labor sentence and Mikalay Rozumau was sentenced to three years of corrective labor for allegedly libeling Lukashenka. Other opposition activists, including Syarhey Lyashkevich and Ivan Kruk have received jail sentences of up to six months.

In a patent attempt to discourage domestic observation of the fraudulent March 19 presidential elections, authorities arrested activists of the nonpartisan domestic election monitoring initiative “Partnerstva”—Tsimafei Dranchuk, Enira Branitskaya, Mikalay Astreyka and Alyksandr Shalayka. They have been in pre-trial detention since February 21, charged with participation in an unregistered organization.

Lukashenka’s pattern of anti-democratic behavior began a decade ago, and this pattern has only intensified. Through an unconstitutional 1996 referendum, he usurped power, while suppressing the duly-elected legislature and the judiciary. His regime has repeatedly violated basic freedoms of speech, expression, assembly, association and religion. In its May 3 annual report, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom included Belarus on its watch list, as Belarus appears to be adopting tougher sanctions against those who take part in unregistered religious activity. The democratic opposition, non-governmental organizations and independent media have been subject to intimidation and a variety of punitive measures, including closure. Political activists and journalists have been beaten, detained and imprisoned. Independent voices are unwelcome in Lukashenka’s Belarus and anyone who, through their promotion of democracy, would stand in the way of the Belarusian dictator puts their personal and professional security on the line. Their courage deserves our admiration, and, more importantly, our support.

Moreover, we have seen no progress on the investigation of the disappearances of political opponents—perhaps not surprisingly, as credible evidence points at the involvement of the Lukashenka regime in their murders. I welcome President Bush’s decision to personally meet with two of the widows in the Oval Office to discuss the situation on Belarus. An Administration report mandated by the Belarus Democracy Act and finally issued on March 17 of this year reveals Lukashenka’s links with rogue regimes such as Iran, Sudan and Syria, and his cronies’ corruption. Despite efforts by the U.S. Government, working closely with the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other European organizations, and non-governmental organizations, the regime of Lukashenka continues its grip on power with impunity and to the detriment of the Belarusian people.

Colleagues, it is my hope that the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 and efforts by allies in Europe will help put an end to the pattern of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE commitments by the Lukashenka regime and will serve as a catalyst to facilitate independent Belarus’ integration into democratic Europe in which demo-

cratic principles and human rights are respected and the rule of law is paramount. The Belarusian people deserve better than to live under an autocratic regime reminiscent of the Soviet Union, and they deserve our support in their struggle for democracy and freedom.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES
“BUSTER” BOWEN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and courageous patriotism of Mr. Charles “Buster” Bowen. As a navigator on a B-25 Bomber, Mr. Bowen proudly served his country in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War. The sacrifices he made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten.

In the late autumn of 1941, Buster Bowen was a senior studying accounting at the University of Texas. He was undoubtedly eager for graduation and full of enthusiasm for the future. However, like many young men and women of his generation, Mr. Bowen’s world was unalterably changed following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After graduating from the University of Texas in June 1942, Mr. Bowen volunteered for military service. His military career began in the spring of 1943 at Kelley Field near San Antonio, Texas. After completing his training, Mr. Bowen was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Group and sent to the Pacific. In a letter to his concerned mother, Mr. Bowen assured her he was assigned an office job—he didn’t mention that his office was a small table under the turret of a B-25 Bomber.

The crews of the 345th frequently flew low-level bombing runs over enemy targets. On one such mission over Formosa on June 15, 1945, a 40 millimeter explosive shell struck the escape hatch of Mr. Bowen’s B-25 Bomber. The shrapnel from the shell pierced the fuselage and badly injured Engineer Harold Warnick and Mr. Bowen. Mr. Warnick sustained injuries to his foot and Mr. Bowen to his back. Even after being injured, Mr. Bowen plotted a course to an auxiliary air base in northern Luzon so that Mr. Warnick could receive the medical attention he needed.

For the injuries sustained by Mr. Bowen in June of 1945, he was awarded the Purple Heart. His squadron commander even displayed Mr. Bowen’s bloodied shirt in the squad room to emphasize the importance of flight crews wearing the uncomfortable flak jackets.

Following his injuries, Mr. Bowen was taken off flying status, but began flying once again before the end of the war. After hostilities in the Pacific ended, Mr. Bowen was stationed on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido as part of the American occupation force.

Mr. Speaker, like so many other young members of this Greatest Generation, Mr. Bowen set aside his ambitions and risked his life to ensure the continued freedom of our great nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the patriotic service of Mr. Charles “Buster” Bowen.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FAMILIARLY FARM ENERGY RELIEF ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, rising costs tied to current energy prices are adversely impacting family farmers rendering some farms unsustainable. In fact, I have heard from some constituents in my home state of New Mexico who cannot afford to plant crops this year due to energy prices. We are in danger of losing family farms.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Family Farm Energy Relief Act. This legislation proposes to repeal tax incentives to oil and gas companies from the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to instead provide energy rebates to family farmers.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided approximately \$2.633 billion in tax breaks for oil and gas companies over the next 11 years. During times of high gas prices and record profits for oil and gas companies these tax breaks are wholly unnecessary. In fact, the current administration has agreed that they are unnecessary. President Bush recently stated Congress has got to understand that these energy companies don’t need unnecessary tax breaks . . . I’m looking forward to Congress to take about \$2 billion of these tax breaks out of the budget over a 10-year period of time. Cash flows are up. Taxpayers don’t need to be paying for certain of these expenses on behalf of the energy companies.

The Family Farm Energy Relief Act legislation redirects the monies from the Energy Policy Act to family farmers to help pay the cost of farm diesel over the next three years. Approximately 3.4 billion gallons of farm diesel were sold in the United States in 2004, 35 million gallons to New Mexican farmers and ranchers.

The rebate program gives a tax credit to qualified family farmers equaling 10 percent of yearly farm diesel expenses. Additionally, qualified family farmers who produce biodiesel for sale or personal use would receive an additional 10 cents per gallon credit.

The program will redistribute approximately \$870 million per year in tax credits for farm diesel expenditures and approximately \$8 million per year in tax credits for biodiesel production over three years. Expenditures from this program will not exceed the \$2.633 billion oil and gas tax incentives from the Energy Policy Act.

Mr. Speaker, family farmers and the Agriculture sector have been a staple of the American economy since before we were a nation. Many family farmers already face great obstacles to success and may have already succumbed to large agriculture conglomerates. The Family Farm Energy Relief Act is not meant to be a substitute for the long-term energy solutions we all seek for our Nation. As much as each of us understands the necessity of a comprehensive and balanced approach to energy development, so too should we realize that in every state there are hard-working family farmers whose monthly budgets are being stretched to the breaking point by energy costs. While we must approach this country’s energy demand with the willingness to make the tough, long-range choices demanded of

us, it is equally important that we heed the suffering being caused by the current high prices. Let us help ease the increasing burden of fuel costs and help ensure that these farmers remain one of the backbones of our country and our country's economy.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION
HeLP AMERICA ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, health care promotion programs have the potential to improve health, improve quality of life, reduce health care costs, and boost productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending is devoted to health promotion. The national investment in prevention is currently estimated to be less than 5 percent of annual health care costs. Our Nation needs a new approach to healthcare—one that puts prevention front and center.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America Act, also known as the HeLP America Act. My legislation is very similar to S. 1074, a bill of the same name, which was introduced by Senator HARKIN. Both Senator HARKIN's bill and my bill are designed to reduce health care costs and improve health outcomes by reorienting our nation's health care system towards prevention, wellness, and self care.

The HeLP America Act is a comprehensive approach to prevention and health promotion. It provides tools and incentives for schools to improve their nutrition programs. It provides tax incentives for employers to implement wellness programs. It provides grants for communities to implement activities to prevent and reduce the incidence of obesity, and chronic diseases associated with this condition. My bill also gives the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products, and requires nutrition labeling on menus in chain restaurants. These are just a few of the provisions included in the legislation designed to attack the problem of skyrocketing health care costs associated with the increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses.

Adaptable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases account for an estimated 75 percent of total health care spending. And Mr. Speaker, as you and all of our colleagues know, our nation's total amount of health care spending is no small sum. In fact, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, total health care spending in 2004 was \$1.8 trillion. Furthermore Mr. Speaker, CMS estimates that this number will double by 2014. For those keeping score at home, that means in 2014 total health care expenditures will be \$3.6 trillion.

With a greater focus on prevention, we will be able to greatly reduce the number of individuals who suffer from all types of ailments, including diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and strokes just to name a few areas where pre-

ventive health care can make the difference. It will improve health outcomes, improve people's lives, and help cut down on our exploding healthcare expenditures. As is noted in the findings of this legislation, per capita health spending in the United States is 56 percent greater than the median for countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. We need to get more bang for our healthcare buck and we need to look no further than focusing on prevention. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking a new and more effective approach to the health of our nation by cosponsoring the HeLP Act.

RECOGNIZING THE STENNIS CON-
GRESSIONAL INTERN PROGRAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants in the Stennis Congressional Intern Program. For many years, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service has enhanced the experience of a select group of summer interns working in congressional offices. The interns are provided with an insiders view of Congress through meetings with senior staff members and other experts to discuss the relationships Congress has with the legislative and executive branches, the media, the public and the private sector.

The program is a joint effort of the Stennis Center and a group of current and former senior staff members who serve as Senior Stennis Fellows. These insiders draw on their experience and expertise in creating the program and participating in sessions with the interns.

The outstanding interns selected to participate are chosen based on their college record, community service background and interest in a career in public service. This year, 30 interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, have been working in personal and committee offices in the House and Senate.

I congratulate these students for being chosen to participate in this exceptional program, and I thank the Stennis Center and the senior fellows for providing such a unique experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

This year's participants are David Benson-Staebler of St. Olaf College, interning in the office of Representative JIM OBERSTAR; Zeke Berzoff-Cohen of Goucher College, interning in the office of Representative JOHN OLIVER; Elizabeth Brady of the University of North Colorado, interning in the office of Senator MIKE ENZI; Tenisha Callender of Loyola University, interning in the office of Representative JAMES MCGOVERN; Paul Cenoz of the University of Southern California, interning in the office of Representative JOHN CAMPBELL; Jessica Cohen of Syracuse University, interning in the office of Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON; Rachel Dillard of Clemson University, interning in the office of Senator JIM DEMINT; Stephanie Dreyer of Boston University, interning in the office of Senator CHARLES SCHUMER; Brittany Erickson of the University of Pennsylvania, in-

terning in the office of Senator KENT CONRAD; David Evans of Wake Forest University, interning in the office of Senator MEL MARTINEZ; Jason Feld of the University of Pennsylvania, interning in the office of Representative LYNN WOOLSEY; Whitney Fogg of Yale University, interning in the office of Representative CONNIE MACK; Clark Fonda of the University of Southern California, interning in the office of Representative JOHN CAMPBELL; Sarah Hackett of Dickinson College, interning in the office of Senator PATRICK LEAHY; JC Hendrickson of American University, interning in the office of Representative MAURICE HINCHEY; Andrew Hill of Vanderbilt University, interning in the office of Representative CHARLIE NORWOOD; Abby Kirkbride of John Brown University, interning in the office of Senator MIKE ENZI; Anne Kouri of Creighton University, interning in the office of Representative RAY LAHOOD; Mark Ladley of The Citadel, interning in the office of Representative ALLYSON SCHWARTZ; Cassandra Long of the University of Central Florida, interning in the office of Senator BILL NELSON; Jonathan Lowrey of Northwest Missouri State, interning in the office of Representative SAM GRAVES; Meghan McCarthy of the College of William and Mary, interning in the office of Representative RUSH HOLT; Chris Nielsen of the University of South Dakota, interning in the office of Senator TIM JOHNSON; Edward Parkinson of the University of Witwatersrand, interning in the House Committee on Homeland Security; Sara Rafferty of the University of Oklahoma, interning in the office of Representative PHIL ENGLISH; Joshua Root of Cornell University, interning in the office of Representative JOHN OLIVER; Eric Sandberg-Zakian of Yale University, interning in the office of Representative RUSH HOLT; Matt Seager of the College of Charleston, interning in the office of Senator PATRICK LEAHY; Eli Sevcik-Timberg of Wesleyan University, interning in the office of Representative MEL WATT; and Elizabeth Tran of Boston University, interning in the office of Representative NEIL ABERCROMBIE.

IN HONOR OF ROY D. HOKE—32
YEARS OF SERVICE AND COM-
MITMENT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has spent the last 32 years of his life serving this body in the Paint Shop. Roy D. Hoke has become a friend of mine and a friend of my office staff. Through his years he has worked to make each and every one of our offices more beautiful—not for us, but for our constituents and honored guests. Rarely have I seen a man more dedicated to his work, and more filled with pride at a job well-done.

He has served in the House under six U.S. Presidents, and 16 sessions of Congress. Prior to his service in the House, Mr. Hoke served America in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

This year, Roy Hoke has become very close to my staff. My office took part in the Housewide program to refurbish our offices, and Roy played a major role in painting my office. He was always there to make it look perfect. Roy was never satisfied with his job—he

kept coming back to make it look better. After 32 years, he was not done making the House of Representatives a more wonderful place to work.

On Friday, May 26, 2006 Roy was doing his work as he always does. He was in my office touching-up when the security alarms went off and the Capitol Police ordered the building locked-down. Roy spent the next six hours in my office with my staff, sharing in conversation, and Coca-Cola and peanuts from my home state of Georgia. Although I was not in the building, my staff tells me that Roy was a joy to be around that day. No one enjoyed the unfortunate situation that developed that day, but Roy was an individual who made the hours pass by more smoothly. He was unflinching in his manner and helped to keep a startled office calm—even as the frightening circumstances hit close to home.

Since that day in May, my office has truly had a new friend. He has become a regular visitor and his constant smile will be missed. Roy's hard work and dedication are rare traits. We thank him for his years of service to our Nation, to this House, and we wish him luck and God speed in the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on August 24, Ukraine will celebrate the 15th anniversary of its independence. As we continue to strengthen relations with allies around the world, the importance of a democratic Ukraine cannot be overstated.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has made steady progress toward the creation of democratic institutions and a free-market economy. While past political instability proved challenging to the Ukrainian economy, reforms implemented under the leadership of President Viktor Yushchenko have brought greater success and prosperity to the people of Ukraine. I was honored to attend President Yushchenko's historic speech before a Joint Session of Congress last April.

Moreover, Ukraine has cultivated a civil society, showing greater respect for human rights, maintaining peaceful relationships with its neighbors, and investing in its citizens' prosperity.

I am very grateful that my home church, the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, has entered into a strong and vibrant partnership with Maximovicha Baptist Church in Vinnitsa, Ukraine. Both churches are promoting exchanges of citizens who, sharing their experiences are promoting democracy. The inspiring heritage and culture of Ukraine is being appreciated by the people of South Carolina. The United States is proud to call Ukraine a friend. We will continue to seek Ukraine's support in world affairs and remain committed to helping the people of Ukraine compete in the global economy for the increased prosperity of its citizens.

RECOGNIZING HEARTLAND HEALTH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Heartland Health of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Heartland Health has been recognized as a strong advocate for women in the workplace and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Employer of Excellence Award.

Heartland Health has been recognized by the YWCA as one of the best places to work in the St. Joseph area. Heartland maintains a flexible work environment that bases advancement on employee performance. As a result, many women have been able to obtain positions in the senior leadership of the organization. Heartland Health is very supportive of families and has developed programs to help working mothers and assist in continuing education. These are benefits that have produced a very committed and productive workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Heartland Health. Heartland has developed into a business that manages to serve employees as well as the community. I am honored to represent Heartland and its employees in the United States Congress.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the National Organization for Women (NOW), our Nation's paramount champion of women's rights.

The National Organization for Women has been a pioneer in the fight for women's equality and is one of our Nation's foremost institutions for social justice and social change. For the past 40 years, NOW has been at the forefront of every major effort to advance women's rights and promote equality between the sexes.

The National Organization for Women was founded in 1966 with the \$5 contributions of 28 women. These women came together in recognition of the need to bring women into equal partnership with men as part of a worldwide human rights movement. In the last 40 years, NOW has expanded this vision to local and campus chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and grown its membership to roughly 500,000.

As the largest feminist organization in the United States, NOW's continued success is due to its leaders' commitment to innovative and diverse avenues of activism. From local rallies and mass marches to political lobbying and Supreme Court battles, NOW works to achieve advancement for women. Its current primary concerns are promoting passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, eradication of violence against women, championing reproductive freedom and other women's health

issues, opposition to racism and bigotry against lesbians and gays and advocating for economic and educational equality.

Since 1967, NOW has dedicated itself to passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The organization tirelessly led efforts to lobby Congress for the amendment's passage until both Houses ratified the ERA in 1971. NOW then led the campaign for ratification in the states and fought for the extension of the amendment's deadline.

Since 1969, NOW has brought lawsuits to our Nation's courts to fight sex discrimination in the workplace. In one of the first cases to apply Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to a sex discrimination case, NOW won women access to positions previously denied to them because of biased and unnecessary strength tests.

Recognizing that economic security means little to women who are not secure in their homes, NOW pioneered the founding of battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers. By organizing the first Take Back the Night rallies, NOW activists provided women with a platform to confront threats of violence and empowered them to speak out against their offenders. In 1994, NOW's efforts to end women's victimization culminated in the passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

Since its founding, NOW has led the battle for women's reproductive freedom. NOW was the first national organization to call for the legalization of abortion and has committed itself to safeguarding the right to choose secured by *Roe v. Wade*. For 20 years NOW fought to use federal anti-racketeering laws to protect abortion clinics and their clients from harassment by militant anti-abortionists. In 2004, NOW cosponsored the March for Women's Lives to demonstrate Americans unequivocal support for women's reproductive rights. The march drew 1.15 million people to Washington, D.C. for the largest civil rights demonstration in U.S. history.

NOW was an early and vocal supporter of lesbian rights. NOW activists supported the rights of lesbians and their families in *Belmont v. Belmont*, the landmark case that awarded a lesbian mother custody of her children. Rosemary Dempsey, the defendant, later served as NOW's Vice President of Action. In 1975, lesbian rights became one of NOW's priority issues and has since been the theme of two of its national conferences.

Opposed to bigotry and discrimination of all kinds, NOW has also been a champion and defender of affirmative action policies. In 1996, 50,000 activists gathered in San Francisco in defense of affirmative action for NOW's March to Fight the Right. NOW has also adopted a hiring policy that reflects its dedication to diversity and commitment to eradicating racial disparities in the work place.

Today, NOW's President, Kim Gandy, follows in the footsteps of the organization's inaugural president, the late Betty Friedan. Under Ms. Gandy's leadership, NOW remains committed to the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and has risen to the unique challenges of our time. Advocating for pay equity, affordable quality daycare, women-friendly workplaces, and a fair minimum wage, NOW, with unfaltering determination, continues to lead our country on the march towards women's equality.

Mr. Speaker, as the National Organization for Women celebrates 40 years as our country's preeminent voice for the advancement of

women, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the essential role that NOW has played in leading efforts to create positive social and political change.

DR. AULAKH, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN, MAKES PRESENTATION AT LONDON INSTITUTE OF SOUTH ASIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the London Institute of South Asia held an event to honor author Professor Gurtej Singh, who has a significant book on the repression in India. In connection with that, they held a seminar on the topic of a separate electorate in India for minorities. Dr. Gunjit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, spoke at the Institute in connection with the seminar. He spoke about the struggle to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987. Yet Indian repression of the Sikh Nation continues to this day.

Dr. Aulakh spoke out against a separate electorate within India for the Sikhs, arguing that only full independence will allow the Sikhs to live in peace, prosperity, dignity, and freedom. He said that independence for Khalistan is inevitable, noting the recent marches, seminars, and other events showing the rising tide of support for freedom for Khalistan. And the politicians in Punjab have noticed and are beginning to speak out for Khalistan. That is a good sign. Even the Congress Party government of Punjab explicitly asserted the sovereignty of Punjab when it cancelled the agreements allowing the transfer of Punjabi water to non-riparian states last year.

He reported on the repression of the Sikhs that continues to show up in the form of the Indian Government destroying Sikh farms with bulldozers, farms that Sikh farmers had worked their lives for, only to see a lifetime of work destroyed by the Indian regime. This repression takes the form of arresting people for raising the flag of Khalistan, even though the Indian courts have ruled that wearing the saffron of Khalistan or raising a flag is not a crime. But the Indian Government apparently believes that it is not bound by the law, a position held not by democratic, but totalitarian governments. As my friend from California has said, for minorities, "India may as well be Nazi Germany."

Mr. Speaker, we cannot sit idly by and let this repression continue. I know that there are many pressing problems on the world stage that require our attention, such as the situation in Lebanon and the continuing fight against terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. But we must not let the necessity of attention and action in these important situations allow us to let Indian repression slip under the radar. It is our duty to the principles on which this country was founded to support freedom everywhere in the world, not just in the hot spots. It is time to take action, Mr. Speaker. America should cut off aid and trade with India until all people there are allowed to live in freedom. And we should support real democracy, the kind India claims to believe in, in the form of a free and

fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagalim, in Kashmir, and wherever people seek their freedom in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on Dr. Aulakh's visit to the London Institute of South Asia into the RECORD at this time.

DR. AULAKH SPEAKS TO LONDON INSTITUTE OF SOUTH ASIA—BOOK AWARD TO PROFESSOR GURTEJ SINGH

WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 12, 2006.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, spoke last month at the London Institute of South Asia (LISA.) He went there for a ceremony honoring Professor Gurtej Singh IAS for his book, *Tandev of the Centaur*, which won the LISA Book Award. The seminar addressed the topic of a separate electorate for Indian minorities. Dr. Aulakh spoke on the topic of the liberation of Khalistan. He said that the idea of a separate election could be good for some minorities but was something that would hold back the struggle for freedom of minority nations that are dominant in their areas. He gave four radio interviews on Punjabi stations that are listened to worldwide.

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

"This book does not clarify everything, but it clarifies a lot," said Brigadier Usman Khalid, Director of LISA. "It lays the foundation for friendship between two irrepressible nations of the subcontinent—the Muslims and the Sikhs. The national cohesion that exists within the Muslims and the Sikhs cannot be replicated in the caste based Brahminic society," Brigadier Khalid said, "Indian secularism is 'fraudulent; Indian nationalism is a pious hope without foundation or purpose. The book nails those lies. It is a great starting point for the 'freedom for all in South Asia.'"

"Despite the Indian Government's massive efforts over two decades to crush the Khalistani freedom movement and the other freedom movements, there remains strong support for Khalistan in Punjab and the surrounding Sikh areas," Dr. Aulakh said. He noted the anniversary of the attack on the Golden Temple and the atrocities that were committed in Operation Blue Star. He took note of the arrests of Sikh leaders in Punjab for making speeches and hoisting the flag. He noted that Khalistan slogans were raised inside the Golden Temple recently. He noted the seminars organized by Atinder Pal Singh and took note of the atrocities committed by the Indian government, such as the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra, the murder of Akal Takht Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, tearing apart the driver of Saba Charan Singh, and the mass cremation of Sikhs. He cited the Chithisinghpura massacre, the bombing of an Indian Airlines flight in 1985, and other atrocities committed by the Indian government.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in

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

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

"The genocidal policies of the Indian government are aimed at eliminating all these groups," Dr. Aulakh said. "Self-determination must be the standard," he said. "Short of that, it is hard to see how the freedom of all people in South Asia will be protected."

We thank the London Institute of South Asia for including Dr. Aulakh in its presentations. We would like to thank General Khalid, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, V.T. Rajshekar, and all the trustees of the Institute for inviting Dr. Aulakh to make this presentation.

PRESIDENT NIYAZOV INTENSIFIES REPRESSION IN TURKMENISTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I want to bring to the attention of the Congress a number of alarming arrests recently made by the Government of Turkmenistan. Last month between June 16–18, three human rights defenders were detained by Turkmen security forces and have been held for over a month. Considering Turkmenistan's abysmal human rights record, I greatly fear for their safety as they are certainly at risk of torture.

Amankurban Amanklychev, Ogulsapar Muradova, and Sapardurdy Khajiev are affiliated with the Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation, a non-governmental organization that monitors human rights in Turkmenistan. In addition, Ms. Muradova has served as a journalist for Radio Liberty, a private communications service funded by the Congress through the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

Apparently Turkmen authorities arrested these three individuals because of their connection to a documentary about President Saparmurat Niyazov's cult of personality and

their use of hidden video equipment in making this film. The three now face the trumped-up charges of illegal weapons possession and allegations of "espionage." Given the absence of any media or speech freedoms in Turkmenistan, the government's allegations are simply not credible, and the detentions are unjustifiable.

Human rights organizations report that the detainees are being abused. Most troubling are allegations of psychotropic drugs being administered to Amanklychev and Muradova in an effort to force their confession to "subversive activities." The reports concerning psychotropic drugs are quite believable, as Turkmenistan is known to use these drugs in psychiatric hospitals to punish individuals.

In April, 54 members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives wrote to President Niyazov, urging the unconditional release of a prisoner of conscience held in a psychiatric hospital. While that individual was released, soon thereafter Congress learned of an almost identical case—69-year-old Kakabay Tedzhenov. He has been held in incommunicado detention in a psychiatric hospital since January 2006 for peacefully protesting government policies. Considering that just three months ago a significant number of Senators and Members of the House wrote President Niyazov about this barbaric practice, I am particularly disappointed that the Turkmen President continues to allow the misuse of psychiatric institutions as prisons for political dissidents and that Mr. Tedzhenov remains jailed.

With Ms. Muradova's ties to Radio Liberty and the Congress, as well as the letter from 54 Members of Congress to Niyazov regarding the use of psychiatric hospitals, the continuation of these inexcusable actions will affect the relations between Turkmenistan and the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging President Niyazov to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Amankurban Amanklychev, Ogulsapar Muradova, and Sapardurdy Khajiev, as well as Kakabay Tedzhenov.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH BOZELLA

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Mr. Ralph Bozella of Longmont, Colorado.

Soon after graduating with his teaching certificate during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam war, Mr. Bozella's life forever changed one Monday in the late summer of 1970. The ink was barely dry on the teaching contract he signed the Friday before when Mr. Bozella received notice that he had been drafted for service in Vietnam.

Before long, Mr. Bozella found himself at Bien Hoa Air Base near Saigon, Vietnam. From there he was sent to Chu Lai and assigned to a light infantry brigade within the Americal Infantry Division. Mr. Bozella was assigned to search and patrol the area to protect nearby villages during the rice harvest.

On these patrols into the Vietnamese jungles Mr. Bozella courageously volunteered to be the patrol's point man. In this capacity he

walked first to find booby traps before they found the rest of the patrol.

Eventually, Mr. Bozella transferred to the U.S. Army Education Center where he taught and tested soldiers in a GED program. With his background in education, Mr. Bozella was grateful that he was able to positively impact soldiers in such an incredibly difficult situation.

Following Mr. Bozella's return from the horrors of the war in Vietnam, he encountered an unsupportive society and was ostracized by his peers. Despite these difficulties, Mr. Bozella earned a masters degree in adult and community education from Colorado State University and went on to serve his community in various roles as an educator and administrator.

Mr. Bozella has been intimately involved in several veterans' organizations, serving as chairman of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs and as a State officer with the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Bozella's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Ralph Bozella. I am deeply saddened by the way he was treated when he came home from Vietnam. After the passing of the years I hope that the respect and honor that his is afforded today will help heal those wounds.

HONORING NANCY ALLEN'S SERVICE TO RUTHERFORD COUNTY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Nancy Allen for her service to Rutherford County, Tennessee, as County Mayor for 12 years.

Recently, the Tennessee General Assembly changed her title from County Executive to County Mayor. Her title was not the only thing to change recently. Population projects from the 2000 Census to 2005 show Rutherford County has gained more than 36,000 new residents. Money Magazine recently named Murfreesboro, the county seat and my hometown, as 84th out of the top 100 places to live in the United States. These figures and accolades are due in part to Nancy's leadership ability and the collective vision of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners over which she has presided and previously served 4 years.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Board of Commissioners, Nancy also chairs the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center Board, Community Care of Rutherford County, Inc., and Regional Transportation Authority. Nancy is a founding member of Recycle Rutherford and a member of the Sam Davis Memorial Association, League of Women Voters, the Oakland Association, and the Rutherford County Chapter of the Middle Tennessee State University Alumni Association and recipient of the 1996 Trailblazer Award. The aforementioned awards and memberships are only a highlight of Nancy's commitment to her community.

I know Nancy will not retire completely from performing public service. It is my hope that she will now have more time to spend on per-

sonal pursuits, which will likely include her always supportive family, husband Jerry and daughter Melinda. Thank you, Nancy, for a job well done.

IN MEMORY OF APOSTLE ISAIAH REVILLS MAN OF GOD PREACHER OF THE WORD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a man who I am proud to have called a friend, a constituent, and an inspiration: Chief Apostle Isaiah Revills.

Apostle Revills was born on August 23, 1931 in Moultrie, Georgia, the son of sharecroppers. At the tender age of nine years old, Isaiah's father was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan. His mother was forced to lead the family of nine children, but her rock-solid faith in God saw her through.

Isaiah went on to the Moultrie High School for Negro Youth, where he met a young woman named Ullainee Sanders. Ullainee became his sweetheart and his partner, and on June 4, 1955, Isaiah and Ullainee were married. For the last 51 years, they have been partners in every sense of the word—sharing equally in the joys and burdens of the journey of life.

The young couple moved to Milledgeville, Georgia shortly after their marriage, and there Isaiah began to serve as the pastor of his first church. In 1958 they moved to Albany, Georgia, where together they conducted prayer meetings from house to house. So successful were these meetings that they opened a mission in 1959. Isaiah preached the Gospel there, and as far away as Harlem, as his ministry grew. His congregants grew rapidly in number and they moved to a new facility in the Masonic Hall. Apostle Revills fasted for forty days, a mission that led him to another church building, lovingly called "The Shanty." But the growth continued! Isaiah, a brick mason by trade, built the new church with his own two hands. Shortly thereafter, he went into the ministry fulltime with the constant support of Ullainee.

At the time, Newton, Georgia had a difficult racial climate, but Apostle Revills had a vision from God, and traveled there for a tent crusade. That meeting led him across Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and all the way to California. Apostle Revills was anointed by God in 1966 and went on to many more tent crusades, the largest of which became the annual Camp Meeting in the City of Albany, that ended every year with a baptism at the Mercer Mill.

His ministry grew so large, that in 1981 they opened a new 5,000-seat Cathedral and organized into ten distinct operating districts. Apostle Revills began publishing his Miracle Guiding Star Magazine, and took to the radio and television to preach the Word. He preached in Kenya, Haiti and Israel. In 1991, he was justly recognized as one of Georgia's ten most prominent black pastors.

In 1995, Apostle Revills was formally and publicly ordained as an Apostle of Jesus Christ. He received an honorary Doctorate of

Divinity and his ring, staff, and crown—official symbols of his position. I was fortunate enough to have worshipped with him at this, and several other services, throughout my time as his Congressman.

I remember when I first campaigned for Congress in July of 1992, all of my local political advisors told me I must meet and pray for the blessings of Apostle Revills. His ability to reach out and touch those he met showed that he was truly anointed by God. He was a man of great stature physically, and a giant spiritually. Apostle Revills was a true friend of mine and I will greatly miss his friendship and his guidance—both spiritual and otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to honor Chief Apostle Revills. I also honor his darling wife Ullainee for her service to God and humanity, and for her loving marriage to Isaiah. Together they had five children and five adopted children, and now have 20 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Apostle Revills' legacy will surely live on in all of them, and in the faith of his followers.

Mr. Speaker, Apostle Revills is a legend in Southwest Georgia and will be remembered for truthfully speaking the Word of God. I stand here today to honor his legacy and thank him for his friendship. He was truly a man of God and I was blessed to know him.

TAKING OUR CASE TO THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I will join Chairman SAM JOHN-SON and colleagues on the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Employer—Employee Relations for a field hearing in Plano, Texas. This hearing will address a key issue in the debate surrounding illegal immigration: employee verification systems and employer enforcement.

The House border security bill incorporates stringent measures for verifying and complying with employee eligibility. Such provisions are sadly absent from the Reid-Kennedy Senate bill.

Throughout August, we will take our case to the American public. With various field hearings, we will differentiate our border-first approach from the Reid-Kennedy amnesty plan.

Chairman ED ROYCE held two such hearings in July. Mr. Speaker, the response was overwhelming—the American people are on our side!

As we continue to debate this issue, I hope Senate Democrats will realize what the average American already understands: We cannot address illegal immigration without addressing border security.

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

RECOGNIZING HANNAH BARNETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hannah Barnett of Saint Joseph,

Missouri. Hannah is a student at Benton High School and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Hannah is recognized as one of the most sincere and compassionate students at Benton High School. She has been involved in Student Council for four years, was elected homecoming queen, and served as Vice President of both her class and the entire student body.

As an athlete, Hannah has lettered in four varsity sports. She has played on three District Champion basketball teams, served as the captain of the soccer team that advanced to the State Playoffs, and served as captain of the volleyball team. These achievements earned her the honor of being named the Female Scholar Athlete for St. Joseph Sports, Inc.

Academically, she is one of the best and brightest. She is an academic leader who has challenged herself with the most rigorous classes in preparation for her future. She has maintained the balance between her class work and extracurricular activities, while obtaining the rank of second in her class.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Hannah Barnett. She is an outstanding member of our community and I wish her the best in her bright future. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAN
MOSKOWITZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express deep and profound sadness at the passing of Stan Moskowitz, CIA Director of Congressional Affairs and integral partner to the Interagency Working Group on Nazi War Crimes, IWG. Mr. Moskowitz passed away suddenly, after playing tennis, on June 29, 2006. It was a great shock to many who were privileged and fortunate to work with him.

Mr. Moskowitz played an integral role in ensuring the disclosure of documents related to the Nazi war crimes. When the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act was extended for 2 years in February 2005, then Director of Central Intelligence Porter Goss asked Mr. Moskowitz, who at the time was retiring as CIA's Director of Congressional Affairs, to help him guide the Agency toward a full disclosure of the historical record as captured in CIA files. Based on Porter Goss's commitment, Mr. Moskowitz promised the IWG that CIA would do the following: Declassify information on all Nazis; Declassify operational files associated with those Nazis; Re-review material that had been redacted; Undertake such additional searches that historians or the CIA thought necessary as the work progressed.

Under the leadership of Mr. Moskowitz, the CIA has made good on each of these promises. He played a key role in ensuring the success of the CIA's work during the 2-year extension and made a quick, sensitive, and good humored shift from all of his prior responsibilities to an entirely, new, important and difficult role.

I first learned of Mr. Moskowitz's death from those of us working with the IWG in an effort

to release U.S. Government records related to crimes committed by the Nazi and Japanese Governments during World War II. The response to the news was immediate and heartfelt. Since his colleagues conveyed Stan Moskowitz's remarkable character and the important contribution he made to history, I would like to share with you some of their thoughts. One person wrote: "Stan was a man whose broad experience, character and personality drew you in as few have the ability to do. He just radiated intelligence, understanding, empathy, insight, and yes, wit. I will miss Stan." Another wrote: "Stan was a major reason for our success. He may not have always agreed with our conclusions, but he wanted to be sure that the historical record was as complete as possible." Finally: "What terrible, shocking news. Stan was a wonderful person who was unswervingly dedicated to pursuing truth, and he performed great service to his country in a long and distinguished career. He will be greatly missed."

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the statements from those who knew and worked with Mr. Moskowitz. I think they speak volumes of this man who contributed significantly to our Nation's history. Most recently, I met Stan Moskowitz at the IWG press conference on June 6. As usual, his comments were informative and insightful. He truly was a national treasure.

I would like to note that Mr. Moskowitz earned many high honors including two Presidential Distinguished Officer Awards, the Director's Medal, the Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, and the Intelligence Community Medal of Merit. Mr. Speaker, Stan Moskowitz served his Agency, his government, and the people of the United States loyally and with honor. I would like to offer Mr. Moskowitz's family my deepest condolences. He will truly be missed.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN PRESIDENT
ADDRESSES LONDON INSTITUTE
OF SOUTH ASIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, recently spoke at the London Institute of South Asia, which was holding a seminar on separate electorate in India. He also contributed an article to the Journal of the London Institute of South Asia. Both presentations were on the same theme: freedom for Khalistan, the sovereign Sikh state that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987, and has been under Indian occupation ever since then.

Dr. Aulakh stressed that a separate electorate within India, although it might help some of the oppressed minorities there, would not be appropriate for the Sikh nation, which is separate and distinct from India. He said that the achievement of full sovereignty and independence for Khalistan is inevitable. He took note of the Sikh farmers whose farms were bulldozed earlier this year by the Government. He discussed the Sikh activists who were arrested for raising the Khalistani flag. "How can India claim it is a democracy and continue to hold political prisoners?" he asked. "How can a democratic, secular state make it a crime to

raise a flag and make speeches? Would America arrest people for raising the Confederate flag? Would the United Kingdom arrest people for speaking in support of Scottish independence?" And the answer is that of course we wouldn't. We may not like these things, but they are not crimes. Yet in India the equivalent act gets you arrested.

Dr. Aulakh noted several other acts of tyranny against the Sikhs, including the kidnapping of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, the murder of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke, the killing of the driver for Sikh religious leader Baba Charan Singh, who was tied to two Jeeps which drove in different directions, tearing this human being apart, and many other atrocities. These things are the mark of a tyrannical, totalitarian regime, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Aulakh writes that in light of these atrocities, "independence for Khalistan is inevitable."

Dr. Aulakh takes note of the rising support for Khalistan in Punjab. He notes the marches being organized, that politicians and other Sikh leaders are speaking out for Khalistan, the seminars held by a former member of Parliament on the subject, and other activities in support of freedom for Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. All people and all nations have a right to be free. That is the idea that gave birth to America. As such, we must be active and vigilant in supporting freedom around the world. We should stop our aid and trade with India, which is only propping up the repressive regime. The time has come to put the U.S. Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Khalistan and all the minority nations that seek their freedom in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place Dr. Aulakh's article from the Journal of the London Institute of South Asia into the RECORD at this time.

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

FLAME OF FREEDOM BURNS IN KHALISTAN: ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOVEREIGN SIKH STATE IS INEVITABLE

(By Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

January 2006 was not a good month for the Sikh farmers in Uttaranchal Pradesh, India. Their farms were bulldozed and they were thrown out of the state. They had worked peacefully all their lives, but now everything they had worked for was destroyed. Once again, the government had decided to make Sikhs the victims. This continues a pattern of repression that has kept the Sikh Nation from living in freedom or prosperity. Since 1984, over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government.

There is no way for these farmers to gain redress within the Indian system. They have lost their life's work with no way of making themselves whole. And they have no means to begin again. They received no compensation for their bulldozed property. This is just a recent example of why Sikhs need their own independent country, Khalistan.

Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Since then, India's brutal repression of the Sikh nation has intensified. Last year on Republic Day, 35 Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the flag of Khalistan. This past June, even more Sikhs were arrested for hoisting a flag and making speeches. They join at least 52,268 Sikh political prisoners that India ad-

mitted to holding, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) (as well as tens of thousands of other political prisoners, according to Amnesty International.)

India proclaims itself the world's largest democracy. How can India claim it is a democracy and continue to hold political prisoners? How can a democratic, secular state make it a crime to raise a flag and make speeches? Would America arrest people for raising the Confederate flag? Would the United Kingdom arrest people for speaking in support of Scottish independence?

The Sikhs are a separate people from India—culturally, linguistically, and religiously distinct. As such, the Sikh Nation is logically and morally a separate nation, a separate people. Every day Sikhs pray "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," meaning "the Khalsa shall rule." It is part of the Sikh consciousness that we are either rulers or we are in rebellion.

Since 1947, the Indian government has been enslaving the Sikh Nation. Under Indian rule, Sikhs are slaves. They are exploited, tortured, and killed for the convenience of the rulers. Despite India's repression of the Sikhs 'symbolized by half a million troops enforcing the peace of the bayonet' the Sikhs are reclaiming the freedom that is our birthright. The record of India's treatment of the Sikhs makes it clear that there is no place for the Sikhs in 'India's democracy'.

In 1995, human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra published a report exposing India's policy of secret cremations of Sikhs under which Sikh men are picked up, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies are declared 'unidentified' and secretly cremated. Khalra did his work by studying several cremation grounds in Punjab. He established about 25,000 Sikhs who have been secretly cremated. Follow-up work has established that the number is around 50,000. Their bodies have never been given to their families. For his work, Sardar Khalra was murdered in police custody; no wonder his body also disappeared.

The one witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been consistently harassed by the Indian regime. He even got arrested for trying to hand information about the repression of the Sikhs to the British Home Minister outside the Golden Temple.

Former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke was murdered by police official Swaran Singh Ghotna. He has never been brought to justice. The driver for Sikh religious leader Baba Charan Singh was killed when his legs were tied to two jeeps which then drove in different directions. The cases of torture by rolling heavy rollers over the legs of Sikh prisoners are too numerous to mention. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs.

The only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, stability, dignity, and prosperity, without constantly fearing for their lives, is by liberating Khalistan.

The establishment of an independent Khalistan is inevitable. Support for an independent Khalistan is rising in Punjab. Last November, Khalistan slogans were raised at Nankana Sahib during the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday and at a subsequent seminar. More than 25,000 people were in attendance for the birthday celebration. There have been numerous marches demanding freedom for Khalistan in Punjab. Former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh held a seminar on Khalistan. Even when the Punjab Legislative Assembly canceled the agreements that had allowed Punjabi water to be diverted to other states, they openly

asserted the sovereignty of the state of Punjab. It seems that the Indian government is aware and afraid of the rising tide of support for Khalistan.

As Steve Forbes wrote in Forbes Magazine in 2002, "India is not a homogeneous state. Neither was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It attacked Serbia in the summer of 1914 in the hopes of destroying this irritating state after Serbia had committed a spectacular terrorist act against the Hapsburg monarchy. The empire ended up splintering, and the Hapsburgs lost their throne." India is doomed to a similar fate. It is not a single, homogeneous state, but many countries thrown together under one umbrella by the British colonial rulers for their convenience. It has 18 official languages. Such countries historically fall apart. The Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia are other examples from recent history.

Even former Home Minister L.K. Advani has acknowledged the instability of India, saying in Parliament: "if Kashmir goes, India goes." At a seminar in Lahore in November 2005, I predicted that India will break up into five or six different countries. This caused the Akali leaders present to walk out, betraying the interests of the Sikh Nation once again. Sikhs are willing to sit down and negotiate the borders of a free and independent Khalistan, as long as that is the sole subject for negotiation.

The Sikh Nation has a long and distinguished history of freedom and secularism. Guru Gobind Singh Sahib established the Khalsa Nation in 1699 at the historic Vaisakhi Congregation in Anandpur Sahib. This event is celebrated every April on the Sikh holiday of Vaisakhi Day. By his action, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib firmly established a distinct identity for the Khalsa Panth. He gave the Khalsa the blessing of sovereignty and independence: *Ain grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi. 'Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah.'*

The Gurus laid down the correct way for the Sikh Nation by their example. Guru Nanak Sahib, the first Sikh Guru, confronted the atrocities of the first Mogul ruler Babar against the innocent population. Guru Arun Dev Ji Sahib became a martyr in defense of his principles and acceptance of the will of God. Guru Teg Bahadur Singh Sahib sacrificed his life in defense of the weak and other religions, defending Hindus from forced conversions. Today, it is nationalist Hindus who are carrying out forced conversions, more precisely forced reconversions of those who have converted to another religion.

The tenth and last Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, completed Guru Nanak Dev Ji Sahib's mission. He infused a new spirit into the Sikh Nation and designed a new road map for the Sikhs. He initiated the Sacrament of Steel (*khande de pahul*), ordained the first five Sikhs as Singhs B the Panj Piaras, or Five Beloved Ones B and instituted the Order of the Khalsa. From then on, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib commanded the Sikhs to mark their distinct identity known through five symbols: unshorn hair, symbolizing natural and saintly appearance (worn under a turban); a special comb to keep the hair clean; a steel bracelet symbolizing discipline and gentility; the Kirpan, or sword, a symbol of courage and commitment to justice, truth, freedom, and human dignity; and special knee-length under shorts, symbolizing chastity.

In 1706 Guru Gobind Singh left this world for his heavenly abode. Just two ears later, Banda Singh Bahadur established a Sikh Raj. It lasted from 1710 until 1716. From 1716 to 1765, Sikhs went through horrible persecution by the Mogul ruler Aurang Zeb. During that period, Sikhs experienced the *chhota ghalugara* (small holocaust) and the *wadde*

ghalugara (large holocaust) In 1762, one third of the Sikh population was killed in three days.

In 1765, Sikhs again established Sikh rule in several Sikh missals (free cantonal republics) as well as the principalities of Patiala, Nabha, Faridkote, Kapurthala, Jind, and Kalsia. This lasted until 1799 when Maharajah Ranjit Singh established Khalsa Raj in Punjab by uniting the missals and principalities. They marched into the capital city of Lahore and hoisted the Sikh flag, manifesting the spirit of liberty reaffirmed at the Vaisakhi of 1699. This Khalsa Raj lasted until 1849 when the British conquered the Sub-continent. This Sikh nation of Punjab was recognized by most of the Western powers of the time. The contemporary struggle to liberate the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, is part of the same historical process.

Maharajah Ranjit Singh's rule was the Golden Age for Punjab. Sikhs destroyed Mogul rule and stopped invasions from the Afghan rulers to the west. Under the command of Hari Singh Nerwa, Sikhs defeated the Afghans and occupied Kabul. Nelwa left Kabul after securing the promise from the Afghans that they would not cross east of the Khyber Pass. Maharajah Ranjit Singh and Hari Singh Nerwa invaded Kashmir, which was part of Afghanistan, and annexed it to Punjab in 1819. India and Pakistan owe a debt of gratitude to the Sikhs, as both countries claim Kashmir as their own.

During Maharajah Ranjit Singh's rule, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians all had a share of power alongside the Sikhs. All of them were represented as ministers in his Cabinet. The Faqir brothers, who were Muslims, were trusted ministers in the inner circle of Maharajah Ranjit Singh. General Ventura, a Christian, was in charge of the artillery. The Hindu Dogras (Dhian Singh Dogra and his brother Lal Singh Dogra) wielded enormous power with Maharajah Ranjit Singh.

The Dogras betrayed the Sikhs and conspired with the British in the defeat of the Sikh army.

When Hari Singh Nalwa took a lone bullet from an Afghan, he wrote his last letter in blood rather than ink to bid his last fateh to Maharajah Ranjit Singh. Nalwa had previously asked for more troops but those letters were intercepted by the Dogra brothers, who kept the requests to themselves instead of telling Maharajah Ranjit Singh. They wanted Hari Singh Nalwa to be killed.

Nalwa instructed the messenger to give his letter to Maharajah Ranjit Singh personally and to no one else. The messenger arrived early in the morning.

Maharajah Ranjit Singh and Dhian Singh Dogra were out for a morning walk. When the messenger tried to give the letter to Maharajah Ranjit Singh, Dogra tried to intercept it. The messenger told Maharajah Ranjit Singh that he was instructed to give the letter to him personally. When Maharajah Ranjit Singh read the letter, he was so angry with Dhian Singh Dogra that he hit Dogra with his water bucket. Then he instructed the army to get ready to march towards Afghanistan.

They arrived at the River Attack. It was flooded. It had overflowed its banks. The Sikhs wanted to wait until the flood was over, but Maharajah Ranjit Singh led his horse into the river. The water went down and the Sikhs crossed the river. Maharajah Ranjit Singh fought the Afghans and defeated them. That stopped the incursion of the Afghans into the Sikh territory of Punjab.

After the demise of Maharajah Ranjit Singh in 1839, the British infiltrated their agents like the Dogra brothers and others

into the Sikh Raj. Sikh rulers were murdered, one after the other. The Sikhs gave the British a tough fight in the Anglo-Sikh wars, but the Sikhs lost the war through the betrayal of the Dogra brothers and the British annexed Punjab in 1849.

The Sikh Nation's desire for sovereignty has not diminished. Sikhs always recite the couplet 'Raj Kare Ga Khalsa' after their morning and evening Ardas (prayers.) The Sikhs actively participated in the Indian struggle for independence from the British. Although Sikhs were just 1.5 percent of the population, they gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices in the freedom struggle. 2,125 Indians were executed during the freedom struggle. Of these, more than 1,500 were Sikhs. Out of 2,645 exiled by the British, 2,147 were Sikhs.

At the time of India's independence in 1947, the Hindus of India and the Muslims of Pakistan received sovereign, independent states. Sikhs were supposed to be a party to the arrangement and receive their own state as well. But the Sikh leadership of the time accepted the false promise of Jawahar Lal Nehru (reaffirmed in resolutions of the Indian National Congress) that they would have 'the glow of freedom' in Punjab and no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. On this basis Sikhs took their share with India.

However, soon after the independence of India, the Sikhs discovered that they had been betrayed. The Indian leaders had no intention of giving them what they had promised. Home Minister Patel shamefully sent out a memo describing Sikhs as a 'criminal tribe'. The repression of the Sikh Nation began with that memo and continues to this day.

The time has come for Sikhs to break free of the repressive Indian regime. This is the only way that their human rights will ever be respected. And the world is beginning to notice. In the United States Congress, the Congressional Record is serving as a vehicle to keep an accurate record of the repression and to defeat India's effort to whitewash the situation and the history of the Sikhs and other minorities. The Congressional Record carries repeated calls for a free and fair plebiscite on the independence of Khalistan and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. There are also repeated calls for a cut off of U.S. aid to India until human rights are respected. The pressure is mounting for human rights and freedom in South Asia. How soon will India collapse under the pressure? It is only a matter of time.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL HALE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cheryl Hale of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Cheryl has enjoyed a successful banking career spanning 28 years and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in the Workplace.

Cheryl truly built her career from the ground up. At the age of 22, Cheryl already had a family to support, yet she had little education and experience. She took the initiative and obtained her General Education Degree. She then took her first job working as a bookkeeper, while she began taking college classes at night. In 1990, Cheryl graduated Summa Cum Laude from Missouri Western State College with a degree in Business Administration.

As a member of the community, Cheryl has been a major advocate of the "Profit in Education" program. She has audited books for several Parents and Teachers Association's in the area, and served on the boards of Band Boosters and The Coalition for Achievement. Currently, she serves on the Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board and is very active in the Pony Express Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Cheryl Hale. Her commitment to education, business, and the community are truly remarkable. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chatham Township, in Morris County, NJ a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On September 9, 2006, the good citizens of Chatham Township are commemorating their bicentennial anniversary celebration with a day long extravaganza featuring a Fireman's Parade and an old-fashioned country fair.

In 1806 the Commonwealth of New Jersey officially incorporated the 23 square miles of land to the north and east of the Great Swamp and west of the Passaic River as the Township of Chatham. It originally included the areas that are now the boroughs of Chatham, Madison and Florham Park. The coming of the Morris and Essex Railroad in 1837 led to sharp increases in the population of the township which resulted in incorporating Chatham, Madison and Florham Park as separate boroughs.

In the late 1870s and 1880s the area became a center of the rose-growing industry. The specialty of one of the greenhouses was the American Beauty rose with a 5-foot-long stem. At Christmas they were sent to European royalty. Fifty were also sent to Queen Victoria in recognition of her golden anniversary.

After a 5-year construction ban during World War II, large farms gave way to luxurious home sites. Former rose farms became two major shopping centers at the corner known as Hickory Tree, named for a hickory tree planted during President James Madison's term.

In 1959 the Port Authority of New Jersey and New York considered the Great Swamp to be the ideal location for a major metropolitan airport. Through the massive efforts of area residents, the Great Swamp was secured through donations as a federally protected wilderness area now known as the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge, a national treasure.

High above the Passaic River on the east side of town, the Little Red School House was built in 1860. A school until 1928, the building eventually became the property of the township and housed the police and administrative offices until 1988. Today the historic building appropriately houses the Township Museum and Historical Society.

Today Chatham Township consists of 9 square miles housing 10,000 people. The

horse farms, dairy farms and rose greenhouses are gone, but the five-person township committee form of government continues as it was in 1806.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the residents of Chatham Township on the celebration of 200 years of rich history and the building of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

TRIBUTE TO MUNCIE SHERIFF IN
SNIPER ARREST

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, a tragic tale of death and sniper shootings over the weekend has turned into a bittersweet success story for law enforcement in my home state of Indiana.

Early Sunday morning, after leaving a relative's hunting party on a Washington County farm, Zachariah Blanton, a 17-year-old Gaston, Indiana native, committed four shootings—two along Interstate 65 in Jackson County and another pair along Interstate 69 in Delaware County.

The previous two left Jerry Ross, age 40 of New Albany, dead and another man injured.

Mr. Speaker, this tale is all too familiar to those living in the 50-mile radius of this very Chamber from which we speak today. For it was October of 2002 when the hearts of the American people were troubled by barbaric acts of terror that felled innocent women, men, and even children, in the vicinity of our Nation's Capital.

Whatever the motivation, the acts of John Allen Muhammad in Washington and Zachariah Blanton are acts of terror. These perpetrators defied civilized behavior and believed they could defy the finest local, State, and Federal law enforcement in the world. How wrong they were.

Mr. Speaker, Zachariah Blanton was apprehended by Indiana law enforcement on Tuesday of this week, just two days after his heinous crimes.

Compared to the sad slayings that paralyzed Washington for nearly two months in 2002, one can only stand in honor and amazement at the quick end to the events of this week in the Hoosier State.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the coordination efforts of the Indiana State Police with Jackson County officials, but rise with particular deference to Sheriff George Sheridan and his Delaware County Department of whom the residents of East Central Indiana are most proud this morning.

Mr. Speaker, the nation is watching Delaware County and Sheriff George Sheridan, and the nation is impressed.

On behalf of the residents of east central Indiana, I offer a heartfelt thanks to Sheriff George Sheridan and all law enforcement officials across the Hoosier State. God Bless you for your hard work.

HONORING SANDY AUGLIERE ON
HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandy Augliere on her 90th birthday and recognize her many accomplishments as well as her years of dedication to the Lake Barcroft community.

Sandy Augliere was born Mary Margaret Reed in Marion, N.C., but most everyone who has met her knows her simply as Sandy. Through her engaging personal demeanor and business acumen, Sandy has become an institution in the Lake Barcroft real estate community. In addition, Sandy has been a dedicated and loving wife to her husband Vince, and mother to her four children, Carol, Noel, Reed and Tom.

The senior associate broker at Long and Foster, Sandy has been in the real estate business for some 50 years. She has been in the top 1 percent of Realtors nationally and is a lifetime Million Dollar Club member. In the course of her impressive career, she has sold or re-sold approximately 700 to 800 of the 1,044 houses in the Lake Barcroft. Even today, Sandy works seven days a week, and has no plans to quit.

In establishing her impressive real estate accomplishments, she led opponents of discrimination against African Americans in the home buying market. Sandy sold homes to a diverse group of individuals and families, including Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Attorney General of the United States Ramsey Clark.

Throughout her ongoing success, she has never advertised on television. Instead, she depends on friends and word of mouth. If asked, Sandy is quick to point out that her personal touch has always been a hallmark of her success. This same personal touch has been felt in Lake Barcroft through her community service as Lake Barcroft Association president and Woman's Club president.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Sandy Augliere for her contributions to the Lake Barcroft community. She is an exemplary model of success and citizenship. I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing her on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF OLD TIMERS DAY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of Old Timers Day, a city tradition in New Castle, Pennsylvania, since 1906.

The first annual Old Timers picnic took place at Cascade Park on August 23, 1906, drawing in 7,000 residents of New Castle and has continued as an annual affair. The second year's picnic drew 11,000 people, and by the third year, attendance jumped to 17,000. The figures have fluctuated throughout the years,

but this event has always been a success and an important community event.

This year's festivities will be no exception, thanks to the chairmen and the community leaders who have planned the event. Activities will include: dancing, refreshments, prizes, and souvenirs.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the "Old Timers" of New Castle and their families. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the achievements and fine traditions that truly improve the lives of the senior citizens of the New Castle and neighboring communities.

REPUBLICAN FISCAL POLICY IS
WORKING

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the White House Office of Management and Budget handed down good news in its mid-year budget update—the Republican fiscal policy is working. This year's budget deficit is now forecasted at \$296 billion, which is 30 percent lower than the February projections.

We have made great progress in eliminating the budget deficit through fiscal responsibility and through increased tax revenues brought on by lower taxes.

Since the President's tax cuts were fully implemented in 2003, we have seen consistent and substantial growth in tax revenue. This reaffirms our knowledge that when we ease the tax burden on the American people, we become more productive. As we face future budget challenges it is important to keep that fact in mind.

We must do what is best for Americans. As we all can see by the new forecasts . . . cutting spending and reducing taxes produces real results.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
THAT VENEZUELA SHOULD SUPPORT
STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING
SECURE AIRPORT FACILITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to revise my previous statement regarding H. Con. Res. 400. I rise in opposition to H. Con. Res. 400. While I believe the United States should address the issue of drug trafficking from Venezuela, this resolution is too harsh a condemnation of the Government of Venezuela.

It should be the goal of the United States to work closely with Venezuela and the other nations of this region to combat the trafficking of narcotics and other controlled substances. It is not only out of concern for the welfare of our own Nation if illegal substances and laundered

money are allowed safe passage here; we must also express our concern for the welfare of Venezuelans and others around the world. The control of harmful substances is an international effort in which we must all take an active and engaged role.

I am deeply committed to fighting our international war on drugs. However, the United States diplomacy has been entirely too weak in this regard, and we must recognize that Venezuela is an ally, not an enemy. Our foreign policy must be governed by what is best for the American people rather than by what party is in power. Recent evidence shows a general lack of enforcement in Venezuela of the measures necessary to avoid the trafficking of narcotics and other controlled substances. However, instead of delivering a political attack to a nation for a lack of customs control in an international airport, we must be constructive and pragmatic in our call for stricter enforcement.

I support the message of this resolution to ensure the compliance of the international community with the Organization of American States conventions and comprehensive treaties on narco-terrorism. However, we would benefit from more constructive engagement in diplomatic relations with our allies in the Western Hemisphere rather than simply issuing a reprimand.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution and support better diplomatic relations with the Government of Venezuela.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENTS' ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS ACT (PAPA)

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this legislation responds to the fact that physicians are currently scheduled to receive a significant reduction in their Medicare payments over the next 5 to 10 years. The Medicare Trustees have projected that Medicare payments to physicians will be cut by 4.6 percent in January. And, if Congress does not act, physicians will see a cumulative cut of approximately 37 percent through 2015. Providers in Michigan alone stand to lose \$8 billion over this time period if the cuts that are forecast are allowed to take effect.

My legislation would provide a temporary halt to these Medicare physician payment cuts. It would provide a positive physician update, expected to be between 2 and 3 percent, in both 2007 and 2008. The update would reflect physician practice cost inflation. This follows the advice of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's recommended formula of increases in physician practice costs minus productivity adjustment.

This legislation would also protect beneficiaries from any additional premium increases that would otherwise be caused by this change in physician payments for these 2 years. For seniors living on fixed incomes, unexpected increases in their living expenses can impose hardship. The Part B premium already consumes 9 percent of the average Social Security check. Thus, the bill ensures that beneficiaries would not see an increase in

beneficiary premiums due to Congressional action to increase physician payments.

It is critical that Congress protect the right of beneficiaries to see their doctor in Medicare. The vast majority of seniors and people with disabilities are and will remain in Medicare where they have the freedom to choose their own doctor and get the care that is right for them.

While ideally we will develop a new payment system that integrates payment and quality, we do not have enough information and data to implement such a system at this time. My legislation would provide a temporary increase for doctors while Congress continues to work toward a permanent solution.

IN HONOR OF MARY LOU McCUTHEON'S SERVICE TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for 15 years, Mary Lou McCutcheon has served the senior citizens of Sussex County with integrity, dedication and pride. Under her leadership, first at the County Office on Aging and then at the Division of Senior Services, seniors in Sussex County have seen an improved quality of life financially, medically, and socially. She has always put forth extra effort, going far beyond what was required of her job, to address the needs of the elderly in Sussex communities with true compassion.

Mary Lou has also served as a spokesperson for the elderly on both the state and national level. Just last year, Mary Lou was appointed by the Governor to be part of the New Jersey delegation to attend the White House Conference on Aging.

Her achievements have been too numerous to list and will not be forgotten anytime soon. Without a doubt, Mary Lou has touched the lives of many through her public service in Sussex County. Upon the occasion of her retirement, I extend my warmest appreciation to Mary Lou for her years of service and my best wishes for a happy retirement.

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5682) to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 a proposed nuclear agreement for cooperation with India:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in qualified support of this legislation.

India is the world's largest and most diverse democracy and a strong ally and friend of the United States. As a member of the India Caucus, I recognize the benefits of increased eco-

nomics, security, and cultural cooperation between India and the United States and am proud that in recent years the relationship between our two countries has made rapid advances in so many areas.

Because of the growing importance of that relationship, it made sense for the Bush Administration to consider expanding the U.S.-India strategic partnership to include civilian nuclear energy development. In the context of our friendship with India, I support the concept of civilian nuclear cooperation, and I will support this legislation today.

U.S. law prohibits nuclear cooperation with countries that have not pledged under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—like India—to forgo nuclear weapons. H.R. 5682 carves out an exception for India to allow it to gain access to long-denied civilian nuclear technology in exchange for opening 14 out of 22 of its nuclear facilities to inspections under the International Atomic Energy Agency. Importantly, the bill requires that India and the International Atomic Energy Agency negotiate a safeguards agreement and that the Nuclear Suppliers Group approve an exemption for India before Congress votes on the final cooperation agreement. That means Congress will have a chance to vote up or down once more, this time on the final negotiated agreement. I think that's the right approach.

In exchange for getting access to sensitive nuclear technology and fuel supplies, India has promised to continue the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, to separate its civilian and military nuclear programs and not to transfer the nuclear technology to third parties.

But the deal would not prevent India from ramping up its military nuclear program. Whether or not India actually begins building more nuclear arms is less important than the fact that it will have the capability to do so, and it is unclear what actions countries like China and Pakistan might take in response to that new reality.

I tend to agree the statement by Rep. BERMAN (D-CA) in his additional views on H.R. 5682 that "only a halt on fissile material production would make this deal a net plus for nonproliferation." In the July 2005 joint statement between President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, India committed to "assume the practices and responsibilities" of other advanced nuclear powers. With four of the five recognized nuclear weapons states already having stopped producing fissile material for nuclear weapons and China believed to have halted production, it would seem that India should be able to "assume" this important practice.

Yet the agreement itself does not include any promise by India to cease its production of fissile materials. So I remain concerned about the potential effects of the agreement on our broader nonproliferation goals, since the real has ramifications far beyond the U.S.-India relationship. That's why I supported an amendment based on a proposal by former Senator Sam Nunn to allow the exports of nuclear reactors and technology to India but not the transfers of reactor fuel until it had been determined that India had halted the production of fissile material for its weapons program.

We must try to strike the right balance between strengthening our relationship with India and also maintaining our robust and time-tested international nuclear nonproliferation regime. I will support the bill today, but once the

agreement has been negotiated and before Congress takes its final vote on the deal, I plan to carefully scrutinize the agreement to ensure that it strikes a balance I can support.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Mr. Tim Friedman's 30 years of dedicated service in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Democratic Cloakroom.

Now 30 years may seem like a long time, but really it's only 6 in "Tim Years." That is to say, six World Series wins resulting in rings for the Yankees. I have to wonder if Tim's retirement may have something to do with the prospect of Barry Sullivan's Boston Red Sox winning a few more World Series' and narrowing the Yankees' lead in titles.

Now safe at home—quite literally—I can publicly disclose how I caused one blemish on Tim's otherwise perfect congressional record. The March Madness NCAA basketball tournament bracket was overseen by Tim for years, and he ran a tight ship. You were in by the deadline, or you were out of the pool—except for this one time.

On a late flight home I realized that I had forgotten to put my entry in for the congressional NCAA pool. As soon as I returned to D.C., I petitioned the court of last resort, Tim Friedman, believing my cause was virtually hopeless, but imagining myself shooting that desperate last second three-pointer to win the big game.

To my complete surprise, Tim allowed my desperate shot to count, and he allowed me to slip in my late entry. Even with his charity, I still managed to go 0 and out in the Big Dance! Still, I'll never forget his wisdom for letting me in, and my folly for believing I could handicap the results.

Tim's sports enthusiasm—near-fanaticism, really—will be sorely missed around the Cloakroom. More than that, however, we will miss Tim Friedman's smile, his warmth and his gracious humanity. We hear a lot about world-class athletes. Tim Friedman is a world-class human being.

It has been my distinct pleasure to work with him, an honor to know such a genuine and goodhearted man, and a sad but proud moment for me to say goodbye and best wishes.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AL
BROUNSTEIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beautiful and inspirational life of a true American icon. Al Brounstein, a longtime leader in California's Napa Valley and producer of some of the world's finest wines for over 30 years, passed away on June 26.

While Al's name may not be easily recognized in these halls of Congress, millions of the constituents we represent have benefited from the extraordinary quality, high standards and international recognition he has brought to the American wine industry.

Al Brounstein's single vineyard Diamond Creek cabernets have set the industry standard for quality and enduring structure for more than three decades. National and international wine critics have long credited Diamond Creek's unmatched success with Al's pioneering efforts in bringing the French tradition of "Terroir" to our shores. But to those of us who have had the pleasure of getting to know Al, it is at best naive to ignore the fact that more than any other single ingredient, Al's character was responsible for the works of art he bottled. The land and the climate were only a part. It was Al. Or as I like to call it: It was the Napa Valley tradition of "Al'oir."

I had the honor and extreme pleasure of knowing Al and his wonderful wife Boots for many years. While the world outside of our valley may have known him for his wine, those fortunate enough to be a part of his community knew him for his sense of humor, his love of life, his loyal friendship and his heroic, 23-year battle against a debilitating neurological disease.

Mr. Speaker, I know I am not the first and I certainly will not be the last public official to express his disappointment over a newspaper account. But I was angered to read a recently printed report regarding Al, stating he had passed away after "losing his battle with Parkinson's." Those of us who knew Al well know that he did not "lose" one darn thing to Parkinson's. Parkinson's may have picked the fight, but it was Al who ended up kicking its backside.

Al fought it with a sense of humor and a wry wit that remains unmatched. He also fought it with his commitment and tireless efforts that raised millions of dollars to fund research for a cure.

Mr. Speaker, if there is one disease in our modern time that knows it was in a fight, it is Parkinson's and it has Al's boot prints all over it. Every time he refused to complain about his illness, it took a kick. Every time he created another original painting that would be auctioned for research, it took a kick. And every time he tried to put his visitors at ease by shrugging off his tremors with a funny quip, he gave it another swift kick.

All of us were so very proud of Al and Boots when he was recognized for his leadership in this field by winning the "Buddy" Award for Enduring Spirit at the Annual Morris K. Udall National Awards Ceremony just a few years ago.

And Al's vision went far beyond making great wine and fighting disease. He had an equally unbridled vision and passion to make friends with nearly everyone he met. And, like his wine, he just did not simply make them, he nurtured and cared for them.

Mr. Speaker, nearly a thousand of these very special friends are gathered today at the Culinary Institute of America to celebrate Al's remarkable life. They represent diverse backgrounds and many uncommon occupations brought together by one common influence.

Al liked to refer to the famous budwood he creatively brought into California from France to start his vineyard as "suitcase clones." Whether you knew him as a salesman in his

early days or as a vintner, artist neighbor, national spokesman or loving family member, we all carry a little of Al with us today. We, in a sense, could be considered his budwood. And we, in a sense, have a responsibility to spread the spirit and vitality that defined this American icon.

Al has encouraged us to be proud of what we do, focus on what matters, strive for quality, and always remember that we are all part of something that is much larger than ourselves.

Like his wines, the powerful concentration of his vision and the enduring structure of his character will continue to last for a very long time through the lives he has touched.

TRIBUTE TO THE SESQUICENTEN-
NIAL OF THE CITY OF
BRODHEAD, WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Brodhead, Wisconsin. I am indeed fortunate to represent such a great city.

Brodhead is a proud and progressive community of 3,200 found in the beautiful countryside of southern Wisconsin. This peaceful city offers several unique tourist attractions. The most notable is the 23-mile long Sugar River Bike Trail, which includes a ride under the National Award Winning Clarence Covered Bridge replica constructed by the Brodhead Jaycees. Brodhead sponsors an annual festival in honor of the bridge, Covered Bridge Days, which features a tractor pull and flea market.

The city was formally founded during the spring of 1856, and named in honor of engineer Edward Brodhead, who was the mastermind behind the Milwaukee and Minnesota Railroad. Only a year later the infamous Brodhead Band was founded. The bandwagon was pulled by six horses and traveled far to Freeport, Illinois, for the Lincoln-Douglas debate. They even enlisted in the Civil War and marched in the Grand Review in Washington at the end of the war.

Residents point to the Half-Way Tree as their city's most recognized feature. The bur oak tree is located south of the city, and marks the halfway point from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. It is believed that Native Americans planted the tree purposefully there in the 19th century.

Brodhead's rich history in manufacturing and industry has and continues to provide the city with a solid economic foundation. Most recently, Stoughton Trailers, Kuhn Knight, Inc., and Woodbridge Corporation have helped to contribute to Brodhead's prosperity.

The celebration for this momentous milestone will start on August 11 with an opening ceremony followed by a city-wide street dance. The residents of Brodhead will continue to commemorate 150 years through the weekend, finishing on August 13 with tractor pulls and fireworks. The festivities' theme of "Pride in the Past, Faith in the Future" is a perfect representation of all that this wonderful city encompasses. The people of Brodhead

deserve recognition for their great contributions to the state of Wisconsin, and I congratulate them on reaching this historic benchmark.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL MATTHEW WALLACE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the tragic death of a young soldier from St. Mary's County, Maryland, who gave the ultimate measure of sacrifice in the global war on terror, saddens all of us. As we continue to fight this war, the loss of each and every service member is a tragedy.

St. Mary's County, the State of Maryland, and our Nation lost a great hero when Army Corporal Matthew Wallace of Lexington Park died from his injuries after being hit by a roadside bomb on July 16th.

Matthew Wallace is the 50th Marylander killed in the war in Iraq.

Matthew told his family that he dreamed of becoming a soldier. Today, a grateful Nation thanks him for sacrificing his life in the pursuit of enduring freedom.

He served in the Army's 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Often working at the front of his larger unit, he earned distinctions as a marksman and earned the Army Achievement Medal.

In correspondence with his family, Wallace expressed his hope that he was helping the Iraqi people. Unquestionably, his efforts gave generations of Iraqis the dream of democracy.

Wallace attended Great Mills High School, earned his GED, and worked at several local businesses in his hometown of Lexington Park, including Linda's Cafe and a local convenience store where his co-workers praised his maturity and sense of commitment. He enlisted in the Army in early 2004.

When he deployed to Iraq in December, he was well aware of the danger he would be facing. "He chose to do this," his mother said proudly. His sister Jessica recalled flying home from Basic Training with Matthew, who was still in full uniform, and a man came up to him and thanked him for his service. His older sister said she then realized, "he was now America's son, America's brother."

Matthew's service to our Nation was source of great pride to his parents, Keith and Mary, as well as his sisters, Jessica, Abigail and Micah. Matthew was a Top Gunner for a Bradley Vehicle for his unit in Iraq who once told his mother "he was going to fight the war on terror so his sisters' children never had to." He felt compelled by the events of September 11 to do something more for his Nation.

Indeed, Matthew Wallace gave his life for all of us. As his Representative in Congress, I am grateful for his patriotism and his sacrifice. The Fifth District of Maryland and all Americans join the Wallace family in mourning the loss of this fine young man a real hero.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Hellenic Caucus, I wish to recognize the 32nd Anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, under the pretense of peace-keeping operations, Turkish forces occupied northern Cyprus and gained de facto control in the annexed territory. Today we remember those who lost their lives, the barrier that was erected, and the political upheaval it created. Sadly, despite attempts by the United Nations for a reunification settlement, the country remains divided.

On this anniversary, in addition to mourning and remembering, let us also look forward as positive developments have recently occurred. Earlier this month, Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed to begin a process of bilateral discussions to find a comprehensive settlement to the ongoing Cyprus problem. Both sides recognize that the status quo is deplorable and its prolongation will continue to have negative consequences for both Turkish and Greek Cypriots. The Set of Principles agreed to by the leaders includes a commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in Security Council resolutions. Discussions would immediately commence to focus upon issues that affect the day-to-day life of the people while addressing those that concern substantive issues, both of which will contribute to a comprehensive settlement. This momentous agreement is the first step to engage in direct negotiations since Cyprus's admission to the European Union on May 1, 2004.

Recent events represent great triumphs for the Cyprus state and affirm Cyprus's willingness and determination to diplomatically resolve the decades-old inter-communal conflict. U.S. support, in conjunction with the U.N. and EU, will play an integral role in ensuring successful Cypriot negotiations. The United States must consider Cyprus as one of our nation's top foreign policy priorities. As Americans, we must guarantee that our foreign policy reflects our values of justice, equality and responsibility, and promoting a lasting peace and stability in Cyprus will help further those values. The United States holds a unique position of trust with both Greece and Turkey, and we must use our influence to work toward a solution that is acceptable and equitable to all of Cyprus's residents.

The European Union will also play an important role in charting the future of Cyprus. I was a strong advocate of Cyprus's admission to the EU because Cyprus, like the United States, shares a commitment to democracy, human rights, and the concept of equal justice under the law. Also, the EU's consideration of Turkey's application for membership provides a prime opportunity for needed reforms. If Turkey wishes to increase its global profile and to gain the world's respect, it must earn it by demonstrating its commitment to peace in Cyprus, as well as other important priorities such as ending the blockade of Armenia. Members

of the EU have expressed similar concerns, and I have urged Secretary Rice to emphasize those factors as the EU continues its deliberations.

Despite the obstacles and disappointments we have experienced in the past, we cannot abandon our vision of a Cyprus that is again unified and able to reach its fullest potential in the international arena. The United States has stood beside her in the past, and we will undoubtedly maintain this strong relationship for years to come.

Again, I thank my colleagues on the Hellenic Caucus for their recognition of this important event.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GLORIA JEAN MCCUTCHEON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader, university professor, and accomplished scientist, Dr. Gloria Sanders McCutcheon. After a distinguished career spanning over 30 years, Dr. McCutcheon is retiring from Clemson University. Throughout her tenure in academia, she has blazed trails for future generations and has provided steadfast support to her community.

Renowned scientist Dr. George Washington Carver once said, "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world." Dr. McCutcheon has taken this admonition to heart. Born and raised in Denmark, SC, she is a product of its public schools. She is the daughter of Mr. David Sanders, Sr. and the late Mrs. Hattie Mines Sanders, who taught her the value of hard work, a good education, and a close personal relationship with the Almighty. She completed her secondary education at Voorhees High School, and the bachelor and masters degrees at Clemson University, B.S. zoology and M.S. entomology.

With that foundation, Dr. McCutcheon decided to take a different path in her professional life, becoming a pioneer in the field of entomology. In 1987, she received a doctorate from the University of Georgia, becoming the first African American to earn a Ph.D in entomology from that institution. After returning to her native South Carolina, Dr. McCutcheon became an integral part of the Clemson University faculty.

Dr. McCutcheon currently serves as a research scientist and professor emerita in the Department of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Sciences at Clemson University. Her research has contributed greatly to the decrease in pesticide usage in soybean, cotton, and vegetable production. She has published over 75 papers in scientific journals and extension manuals, as well as two book chapters as Encyclopedia Entries.

She is a Kellogg Fellow and has traveled throughout the U.S. and to South America, Central America, Europe and Africa to study and teach environmental entomology. She has been honored with the Award for Faculty Excellence by the Clemson University Board of Trustees in both 2002 and 2004. She has

served as president of the South Carolina Entomological Society and has served on numerous committees with the Entomological Society of America.

Dr. McCutcheon serves as president of Gamma Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in Charleston, SC. She has participated in several units of United Methodist Women, UMW, and is currently serving as historian for the UMW at Trinity UMC in Orangeburg. She recently completed 12 years as a member of the Board of Trustees at Columbia College and participated in a Roundtable with Policy Makers televised from Washington, DC in 1995, "Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America." Dr. McCutcheon was awarded the Unsung Hero Award for Outreach by the Congressional Black Caucus for her contributions to the community.

Married to Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon, she continues to grow and share in their ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church. They have been blessed with two wonderful adult daughters: Priscilla is a political scientist and Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Georgia; Carmen is an attorney specializing in health policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Gloria McCutcheon upon her retirement from Clemson University and for her extraordinary achievements. She has stayed true to the vision of her parents and her community service, and has commanded great attention by her words and deeds.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF BUILDING SAFETY WEEK

HON. JOHN J. H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of Building Safety Week 2006, an annual, nationwide event sponsored by the International Code Council, ICC, that took place from May 7 to 13. The goal of Building Safety Week is to increase awareness of building safety and fire prevention issues through a variety of activities on the national, State and local levels.

This year, the ICC Board of Directors and members of the ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee, GRAC, gathered here in Washington, DC and spent a day visiting with Members of Congress to help spread their message of public safety. I personally met with one of my constituents, Mr. Henry Green of Lansing, MI, who serves as president of the Board of Directors. It is my hope that my colleagues here in the House and the Senate will carefully consider the legislative priorities presented to us in these meetings.

I would like to thank these men and women for their service and dedication to ensuring that we all live, work and play in a safe built environment. Along with Mr. Green, these individuals include: Immediate Past President Frank Hodge, Vice President Wally Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer Steven Shapiro, Jimmy Brothers, Terrence Cobb, John Darnall, Gerald Geroge, John LaTorra, Ron Piester, Ed Berkel, Bill Duck, Bill Dupler, Greg Johnson, Barbara Koffron, Ron Lynn, Tim Ryan, Adolf

Zubia, GRAC Chairman Ron Nienaber, Becky Baker, Bill Chambliss, Ross Montelbano, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, Lynn Underwood and George Wiggins.

Congratulations again to the hardworking and dedicated members of the ICC.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN HARRIS FOR BEING NAMED THE 2006 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Harris of Coalinga, CA, the recipient of the 2006 California State Fair Agriculturist of the Year Award.

John has been a lifelong farmer, businessman and Fresno County resident. He graduated from University of California, Davis, where he received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural production in 1965. He served as an officer in the United States Army from 1966 to 1968 and returned to the family's farming operation in 1968.

Becoming a true icon for California agriculture, John Harris strived for excellence since day one at the family farm. Currently, he runs an extremely diversified company growing over a dozen crops, feeding approximately 200,000 cattle a year, which are processed at Harris Ranch and sold throughout the west. In addition to his farming and cattle business, John Harris oversees the well-known Harris Ranch Restaurant and Inn located in the outskirts of the city of Coalinga in west Fresno County. As an avid horse-racing supporter, John also manages a large thoroughbred breeding farm and racing stable. John Harris is committed to bringing acclamation to the California's thoroughbred horse-raising industry. Mr. Harris is certainly a man who exemplifies an extraordinary ability to embark on new endeavors and be very successful at bringing many projects to fruition.

Aside from his businessman talents, John is a strong philanthropic supporter of his community and region as a whole. He is a member of many local community boards and contributes immensely to local groups and organizations with various missions to enhance the quality of life of Valley residents. Some of these include the National Beef Board, the California Beef Council, the California Cattleman's Association, and the Pacific Legal Foundation. Some of the community organizations he has contributed to include the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and the University of California at Davis, specifically the Veterinary School.

John Harris is a living legacy of what California agriculture should strive to be as an industry in order to coexist with other booming industries and our environment. He works hard to incorporate high technology innovations to his business practices to protect the air and the environment as much as possible. All the trucks used in his feedlot and meat packing plant run on biodiesel and both the feedlot and the meat-packing plant are state-of-the-art model buildings for the industry.

John Harris is a man of integrity, honesty and compassion. He genuinely cares for his

community and is willing to share his vast knowledge with others. In addition, he and I share the same passion for the well-being of California's Central Valley. For this and so much more, I am honored to consider John Harris as a friend and certainly commend him for all his accomplishments and extend my most sincere congratulations for receiving this prestigious award from the California State Fair.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALL DRUG

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a milestone in the history of one of South Dakota's and the nation's most beloved and recognizable roadside landmarks. This fall, the Wall Drug Store will be celebrating its 75th year of continuous operation near Badlands National Park in Wall, South Dakota. Each year, hundreds of thousands of weary road travelers simply follow the billboards to enjoy a refreshing glass of ice cold water and experience a bit of small-town South Dakota.

Dorothy and Ted Husted began their version of the American Dream when they moved to tiny Wall, South Dakota and purchased a drug store in 1931. The Hustedes set out on their own in search of a small town with a Catholic church that needed a pharmacist and found it among the 362 residents of Wall. At a time when much of the plains were devastated by drought and the depression, running a small business was a difficult enterprise. In 1936, Dorothy Husted came up with the idea to put up signs along the road offering free ice water to travelers on the hot, dusty prairie. Well, the signs did the trick, and more and more travelers came by the store. So they put up more signs on the highway, and from that point on business was booming. Before long, the Hustedes were serving upwards of 20,000 cups of ice water per day and they had signs and billboards for hundreds of miles in every direction. Today, Wall Drug signs appear all over the world, places such as London, Moscow, and even the South Pole.

Seventy-five years after Wall Drug began, not much has changed. Wall is still a small town with a population of 818. Wall Drug is still run by a man named Ted Husted although he is the founder's grandson, and there is still a working pharmacist on site. However, Wall Drug now occupies 76,000 square feet and is one of the leading tourist attractions in South Dakota. The store has become a leading retailer of authentic western art and memorabilia, from cowboy boots to original oil paintings to "genuine" stuffed jackalopes. As such, it is a major part of the economy of western South Dakota, contributing tax revenue to the town and acting as one of Wall's major employers. In fact, in the summer, Wall Drug provides 230 jobs in this town of 818 people.

I want to congratulate the Hustedes and the community of Wall on the 75th anniversary of Wall Drug. Wall Drug is an important part of our state's history, and I wish them the best on their next 75 years of success.

Mr. Speaker, the next time you or any of my other colleagues find yourself in western South Dakota, on your way to visit Mount Rushmore or the Black Hills, I encourage you to stop by Wall Drug to enjoy a refreshing cup of ice water and take in a little bit of western culture. I assure you it won't be hard to find; just follow the signs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE COMBAT ZONE TAX
PARITY ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act, which would provide parity by extending the tax credit currently received by military personnel to the civilian Federal employees working along side them.

Just the other day I received an e-mail from a constituent who is currently stationed in Afghanistan. She said: "I am completing a one year tour with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kabul, Afghanistan. I work with the U.S. military and I live in the same residences with the U.S. military. During the riots on Memorial Day, I listened to the same gunfire as the U.S. military and I wore the same 30 pounds of Individual Body Armor and the Kevlar Helmet as the U.S. military."

It is only equitable that both military and civilian employees who are serving side by side receive the same tax treatment. In fact, even contract employees can get a tax break through the foreign earned investment tax credit, but Federal employees are specifically exempted from that tax credit.

As a former Federal employee, I am keenly aware of the invaluable contributions Federal employees make to our country. I believe we must ensure that our Federal workforce is treated with fairness and respect.

The Pentagon stated in the proposed regulations for the new National Security Personnel System that "NSPS is essential to the department's efforts to create an environment in which the total force, uniformed personnel and civilians, think and operates as one cohesive unit." What kind of message does it send to civilian employees if they receive disparate tax status from their military colleagues?

Just as military personnel, Federal employees serving in combat zones must leave their families behind and this can increase the financial burdens on families. Families with two working parents suddenly have only one parent able to care for the needs of the family. Military personnel in combat zones were given a tax credit back in 1913 to help alleviate their tax burden, but Federal employees were left out.

Since 9/11 it has become ever more vital to have a thriving civil service participating in our efforts to fight the war on terrorism. Now more than ever in our nation's history we must take action that reflects the contributions both our civilian and military employees are making—in the war on terrorism and as well as the daily operations of the Federal Government in providing the services upon which every American relies.

Federal employees are on the front lines of the war against terror.

The first American to die in Afghanistan was a CIA agent from my district.

Federal employees are in Iraq helping the Iraqi people to build a free nation.

Throughout the world, America's civil servants are serving our government and our people, often in dangerous locations.

How can we tell them we will not give them a fair and equitable tax credit that recognizes their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice?

We are asking Federal employees to take on more and more responsibility every day. They are on the ground in the war on terrorism taking over new roles to relieve military personnel of tasks civilian employees can perform. They are all playing a vital role in keeping us safe and deserve to be treated with respect and fairness.

We have a long tradition in the Congress of recognizing the valuable contributions of our federal employees in both the military service and in the civil service by providing fair and equitable treatment. This is not the time to shirk our duty to the civil service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK ROMERO

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an upstanding member of my community. Frank Romero passed away on Monday, July 24, 2006. He was 77.

Frank was a good man whom I knew well. He was a man committed to his family, his community and the Lord.

Frank spent 20 years as the treasurer for Conejos County. In that time, he produced some of the best audit reports the county had ever seen.

Frank was a tireless advocate for agriculture in the San Luis Valley. A farmer and rancher himself, Frank was connected to the land and knew the value of a hard day's work.

In our community, Frank was a servant in the true sense of the word through his work in the Knights of Columbus and other organizations.

Frank will be remembered as a loving family man, a devoted public servant and a genuinely good man. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, dancing, welding, traveling, reading, working on his ranch, snowmobiling and all outdoor activities with his family.

My heart goes out to Frank's family including his wife Philomena and his many children and grandchildren. I would like to express my personal gratitude for Frank's friendship.

TRIBUTE TO GREATER PHILADELPHIA
HEALTH ACTION, INC.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Greater Philadelphia Health Action, Inc. (GPHA) as it joins commu-

nity health centers nationwide in celebrating "National Health Center Week," August 6–12.

National Health Center Week highlights the importance of community health centers as a vital part of health care systems in medically underserved areas. "Celebrating Patient Voice and Community Choice," is the theme of this year's campaign. The theme emphasizes the vital role that community boards of directors provide related to the delivery of health care to the community and determining the range of affordable services provided by the centers.

GPHA was founded in 1970 by the late Carl Moore, a long-time community activist who came together with other community leaders to form GPHA, one of the first medical managed care programs in Philadelphia. It is a community-based, grass roots effort whose mission is to provide quality comprehensive primary health care, health education, human services and child development services to families and individuals throughout the Delaware Valley, regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

The celebration of National Health Care Week also affords the opportunity to highlight the contributions of Mr. Moore and GPHA CEO Ron Heigler, recently elected chair of the Pennsylvania Primary Health Care Forum and his committed staff. All are to be congratulated for continuing to carry on Mr. Moore's vision of providing quality health care to the underserved.

Today GPHA operates six full-service health centers and a behavioral health program, as well as the Woodland Academy Child Development Center in Southwest Philadelphia. The centers also offer specialized treatment and patient education related to asthma, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and HIV/AIDS.

There is no doubt that GPHA and the nation's community health centers fill a major void in our Nation's health care safety net.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF PATROL
AGENT SIMON GARZA, JR.

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American soon scheduled to end his lifelong career of service to our Nation—U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol Marfa Sector Chief Patrol Agent Simon Garza, Jr.

Born in Laredo, Texas, Chief Garza has spent his entire career fighting to secure our borders and ensure our freedoms. Chief Garza began his career, after studying engineering at the University of Houston, by serving in the United States Army, including service in the Republic of Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. In 1975 he joined the United States Border Patrol as a member of the 10th Session at Port Isabel, Texas. After graduation from the Border Patrol Academy, he received his first assignment in his home State in the Del Rio Sector. After much hard work and determination, Chief Garza was promoted in 1985 to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent. By 1990 he was again promoted to Patrol Agent in Charge, and by 1994 he was part of the senior staff at the Del Rio Sector Headquarters, serving as Assistant Chief Patrol Agent.

One year later Chief Garza's leadership role dramatically expanded when he was named Deputy Chief of the United States Border Patrol in Washington, D.C. There he represented the Border Patrol across the world, including in the Middle East, where he shared his valuable insight and experience with foreign leaders and governments.

After serving in Washington, DC, Chief Garza returned back to the field to lead the Marfa Sector as Chief Patrol Agent. During his tenure as Chief Patrol Agent, Chief Garza has modernized his sector to respond to the growing threats to our national security by utilizing mission-oriented technology and transitioning the Sector Intelligence Unit to a pro-active organization. Day in and day out, Chief Garza and his well-trained staff put their lives on the line to tirelessly work to protect our country.

I am proud to commend my good friend—and a hero to our Nation—Chief Simon Garza, Jr., for his distinguished and honorable career. His straightforward and unwavering leadership will be greatly missed. Congratulations on a job well done, Chief.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEVENS-INOUE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE LEGACY ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, DON YOUNG, JIM SAXTON and I are introducing the Stevens-Inouye International Fisheries Monitoring and Compliance Legacy Act. This legislation will amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—the Nation's premier fishery conservation statute—and Title IV of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to promote additional measures to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities. In addition, the bill will implement two international fisheries treaties—the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention and the Agreement between the Governments of the United States and Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting.

This legislation continues to build on the United States' tradition of implementing fishery conservation and management measures domestically and internationally. The United States has been a leader at many international fora to move forward policies that require countries to enforce conservation measures on their flag vessels.

Some international fisheries commissions have been more successful than others in passing resolutions recommending the implementation of conservation measures for fish species in international waters and tying to these measures adequate enforcement provisions. Title I of the Stevens-Inouye International Fisheries Monitoring and Compliance Legacy Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to work toward getting all international fisheries commissions to adopt effective enforcement provisions for species of fish under their jurisdiction.

The effective enforcement of conservation measures for vessels fishing in international waters will help reduce and work toward elimi-

nating the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities occurring in many high seas areas. This legislation would require the Secretary to work with international fishery commissions to adopt market-based incentives, use vessel monitoring systems, and create international vessel registries as ways to eliminate unregulated fishing activities.

Title II and III of this legislation would implement the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention and the Agreement between the Governments of the United States and Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting, respectively. These two titles will allow for U.S. participation in these important international fishery commissions. As in Title I of this legislation, U.S. participation at these international commissions is critical to moving forward U.S. policies to further conserve Pacific Highly Migratory Species and Pacific Whiting and the adoption of effective enforcement measures.

The Senate Commerce Committee, led by Co-Chairmen STEVENS and INOUE, have been leaders on this issue and have passed similar legislation through the Senate and the short title of the bill recognizes their leadership in this area.

This is an important piece of legislation and I look forward to working with my House Colleagues and my Senate Colleagues to pass this bill to the President before the end of the year.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRVING G. BERGMAN AMERICAN LEGION POST IN BANNING, CALIFORNIA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the American Legion is one of the most respected institutions in our Nation, honoring our veterans and providing service to local communities. This is especially true of the Irving G. Bergman Post 428 in Banning, California, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in August.

Post 428 was chartered as the San Geronio Pass Post of the American Legion in August 1931, to serve the veterans living in the Riverside County cities of Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Cherry Valley and Calimesa. Over the years, the Post has also become a community resource in the rapidly growing area.

More than 200 veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf are active members of the Post, which refurbished a building in downtown Banning for its headquarters. My colleagues will be pleased to know that a flag flown over our Capitol waves over the Post each day.

Members of the Post provide service to disabled veterans at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center in nearby Loma Linda. The Post is a frequent host for ceremonies on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other observances. Members have sponsored widely recognized salutes, including a Salute to Blue Star Families and a communitywide Welcome Home to Troops which drew hundreds of area residents to honor California National Guard members returning from fighting the War on

Terrorism. The Post also helped completely refurbish the local Armory.

Post 428 is especially active in the community, with members visiting schools to talk about patriotism and what it means to be a veteran, presenting small flags to students and large flags to be flown at the schools. Members have also participated in safety fairs and local parades.

I am particularly grateful to the past commander of Post 428, Rees Lloyd, who has been a strong advocate for protection of the Mojave Cross Veteran's Memorial in the Mojave National Preserve in the desert area of my congressional district. Although it is in a remote location and has a clear history as a veterans memorial, the cross has been challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued the National Park Service to remove it. Through the efforts of Mr. Lloyd, who is now commander of all Riverside County Posts, the American Legion has taken a strong stand in support of maintaining the cross. With their support, I am hopeful we will prevail in keeping this memorial to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, the American Legion motto is "Still Serving God and Country," and I believe that is especially true of Post 428. Please join me in thanking them for their public service, and congratulating them on their 75th anniversary.

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5682) to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 a proposed nuclear agreement for cooperation with India:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, as a long time supporter of India and one of the co-founders of the India Caucus I have watched with gratification over the past decade as India and the United States have emerged as strategic partners. I believe the world's oldest and largest democracies have a lot to learn from and share with one another.

I am concerned, however, that the Bush administration seems to have focused all of the energy in this bilateral relationship on the recent proposal to commence nuclear cooperation. I understand India's growing energy demands and shortages (a crisis which we in the United States also face) and I believe that our two countries should cooperate and share technologies to promote energy independence. That is why, despite serious reservations about the proposed U.S.-India nuclear cooperation agreement and the Bush administration's ability to properly implement it, I co-sponsored H.R. 5682. I believe it is important that we continue to engage India on this important issue, and I supported this legislation to move this process along.

But I have serious concerns with the agreement as it stands. India has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and

this type of arrangement with a nonsignatory to the treaty is unprecedented. Exporting American nuclear fuel to India has the potential to supplant the domestic uranium India is currently using to generate civilian nuclear power, freeing up this uranium for military purposes. I worry about the message this arrangement would send to the region and the world, and I do not believe further production of nuclear weapons is in India's or the South Asian region's best interests.

Nuclear weapons remain the most dangerous threat to mankind, and I worry about a mistake in Mumbai or Islamabad. The idea that these weapons can be used tactically or surgically is nonsense; we should be working to scale down nuclear weapon production in the region, not escalate it.

I do not believe this agreement is unworkable, but I do feel that there is one very important thing that India needs to do to move this forward: end its production of fissile material. This would show the U.S. and the world that this agreement is truly going to address India's domestic energy needs and not going to enhance its nuclear arsenal. To this end, I voted in support of the Berman/Tauscher amendment, which would withhold exports of nuclear reactor fuel to India until India stops producing fissile material for nuclear weapons.

However, the Berman/Tauscher amendment failed. In the absence of an Indian commitment to end fissile material production, I cannot support moving forward at this time with this agreement. I hope that those of us who do not support an agreement in the absence of such a commitment do not send the wrong message to our Indian friends. We will continue to support India and there are many areas in which our two countries can continue to engage, including trade, space exploration, anti-terrorism, and other defense cooperation. But I cannot in good conscience support an agreement that, even indirectly, increases India's nuclear weapons arsenal. I don't believe that serves India, the U.S., or the South Asian region well.

KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE DAY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, July 27 marks a historic day.

On this date in 1953, the United States signed an armistice with China and North Korea. This agreement ended the hostilities of the Korean War. Unfortunately, most Americans forget this date.

Sandwiched between the second World War and Vietnam, the Korean War can easily be overshadowed. This is a tragedy. Thousands of American soldiers gave their lives in defense of freedom halfway around the world.

As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to ensure that their memory does not fade into obscurity.

On this day, I ask that all Americans take a moment to remember the enormous sacrifices made by our soldiers during the Korean War.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our nation's Korean War veterans.

RESOLUTION HONORING PURPLE HEART DAY IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, on August 7, 1782 in Newburgh, New York, General George Washington began the time-honored tradition of awarding the valor of our soldiers with his creation of a badge of distinction, known as a Purple Heart, to be given to enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

Whereas, on January 7, 1931, a new design of the Purple Heart was created by Ms. Elizabeth Will, an army heraldic specialist in the Office of the Quarter. The design consisted of a purple enameled heart within a bronze quarter inch border showing a profile of President George Washington.

Whereas, on this day, we celebrate Purple Heart Day on the anniversary of its creation on August 7, 1782, as a part of our patriotic duty to remember and recognize our soldiers willing to serve our country.

Be it hereby resolved, that Congressman HENRY CUELLAR commends the City of San Antonio for recognizing the importance of Purple Heart Day and for honoring our veterans on this day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 407, the Stearns of Florida Amendment to H.R. 5682, the United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

A TRIBUTE TO SRI CHINMOY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I consider it an honor and a distinct privilege today to rise and offer birthday congratulations to a man many in this country and the world have come to respect and admire, Sri Chinmoy, who on August 27, will be celebrating his 75th birthday in New York City. He is a selfless individual who has dedicated himself to nurturing world harmony and to the creative expression of the limitless potential of the human spirit.

Sri Chinmoy's many contributions to American life and culture have been expressed through teaching, athletics, art, music, poetry and literature. He combines the contemplative traditions of his native India with the dynamism of his adopted America to serve humanity through programs such as the World Harmony Run torch relay, The Oneness-Heart Tears and Smiles worldwide humanitarian service, and the Lifting Up the World with a Oneness-Heart awards program. Through

these initiatives for world harmony, he has touched countless lives and offered hope to thousands of individuals worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Sri Chinmoy Kumar Ghose was born on August 27, 1931, in India in East Bengal, the present day Bangladesh. On April 13, 1964, he arrived in this country from Southern India, where he had received his education and training in the ancient methods of yoga at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

When he came to this country, he founded the Sri Chinmoy Centre, headquartered in Jamaica, Queens. The first Centres were established in 1966 in Puerto Rico and New York, and have since grown to include branches all over the United States and 73 other countries worldwide. The Centres are dedicated to the twin goals of public service and personal spiritual growth through the use of meditation. The students of Sri Chinmoy include individuals from all faiths and walks of life who seek to cultivate harmony and goodwill both in themselves and in their communities. They also compose the community of volunteers who carry out, at the grass-roots level, Sri Chinmoy's vision of loving service through such varied projects as humanitarian aid and the sponsorship of musical concerts and athletic events.

Considered one of the world's foremost authorities on Eastern philosophy, which is a systematic method of expanding consciousness through meditation, prayer and selfless service, Sri Chinmoy has lectured on this topic at many of the major universities in the United States. His first lecture tour began at Yale on December 4, 1968 and included talks at all 8 Ivy League Universities. In the early 1970s he lectured at 20 universities on topics of Indian wisdom and philosophy. In 1974, he spoke at universities in all 50 states.

He continues to lecture here and around the world. In his writings and speeches, he endeavors to share eastern light for the western mind. A prolific writer and poet, Sri Chinmoy has written over 1,550 books of essays, poems and short stories. The largest university library collection of his works is at Harvard Divinity School.

Meditation classes under Sri Chinmoy's guidance are always provided free of charge. He offered his first public meditation at Columbia University on April 23, 1971, and his first meditation in Congress at the Rayburn House Office Building on May 23, 1979, under the sponsorship of my former colleague, the distinguished late New York Congressman Joseph P. Addabbo.

Mr. Speaker, Sri Chinmoy believes that sport is a powerful instrument for promoting global harmony. He has long found that athletics can be an invaluable source of motivation and enrichment for thousands of people, young and old alike. In 1976 he was recognized with a commendation from the President's Council on Physical Fitness for his role in inspiring young Americans to run the 50-State, 9,000-mile "Liberty Torch" relay held in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial. He founded the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team in 1977. In 1982, several of his students organized "America's Freedom-Ride," a 50-State public participation bicycle relay that celebrated the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

The lessons of these early 50-State American relays became the foundation for the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team to organize a global torch relay. Now known as the World Harmony

Run, it was held from April to August on a biennial basis from 1987 to 2001 and resumed as a yearly event in 2005. The World Harmony Run seeks to promote international friendship and understanding. This year, an international team of runners will carry a flaming torch, symbolizing the human aspiration for oneness, through more than 80 countries around the globe together with a 10,500-mile, fifty State U.S.A. route. The event serves to connect thousands of grassroots efforts for world harmony taking place in communities across the globe. It does not seek to raise money or promote any political cause, but rather to create good will among peoples and nations.

The Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team has made a city block in my district world famous. It's where the longest running race in the world takes place around the shortest course—a half-mile certified loop on paved sidewalks adjacent to the Grand Central Parkway. To complete the Self-Transcendence 3,100 Mile Race, participants run 5,648,688 laps around the block, a distance equivalent to more than 118 marathons. The Tenth Annual edition began on June 11 and continues into August with the largest field yet of 15 ultra-distance runners. As in all his endeavors, Sri Chinmoy sets the highest standards of organization, logistics and support to help ultra-marathon runners achieve their greatest potential. We can expect of this race to see new world records and personal bests.

A decathlon and 100-meter sprinting champion in his youth, Sri Chinmoy believes in the necessity of a sound mind and a sound body. He began his own long-distance running career in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on June 1, 1978. In March 1979, he ran his first marathon in Chico, California, and, later that month, his fastest marathon in 3:55:07 at the Heart-Watchers Marathon in Toledo, Ohio. He has completed 22 marathons and 5 ultra marathons and now, at age 75, still regularly exercises.

Mr. Speaker, Sri Chinmoy first began weightlifting on June 26, 1986, and embarked on a new dimension in his weightlifting career 2 years later when he inaugurated "Lifting Up the World with a Oneness-Heart." This is his way of recognizing individuals from all walks of life who inspire humanity and excel in their respective fields. At these programs, Sri Chinmoy lifts each honoree overhead on a special platform, symbolically reflecting their own uplifting contributions to the world.

Bill Pearl of Oregon, a Five-time Mr. Universe, was the first person lifted in this fashion. Sri Chinmoy has lifted Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, heads of state, ambassadors, Nobel laureates, university professors, spiritual leaders from all faiths, Olympic athletes, citizens serving their communities, and school children whose dreams are so important to our future. In Hawaii, on December 23, 1990, he lifted Senator Hiram L. Fong, who was Hawaii's first Senator at the time of statehood.

On July 10, 2001, in the Rayburn Gold Room, Sri Chinmoy simultaneously lifted my esteemed New York colleague Benjamin Gilman and me on a two-platform lifting apparatus, one of us with each arm. If I had not experienced it, I could not imagine this to be possible. In a day-long lifting program at Boeing Field Auditorium in Washington State on July 13, 2003, held to celebrate the centenary

of the Wright brothers first flight, Sri Chinmoy lifted 123 airplane pilots in appreciation of their dedicated services in carrying humanity into the skies. From 1988 to 2006, Sri Chinmoy has honored more than 8,000 individuals from many countries with this award.

Mr. Speaker, The Oneness-Heart Tears and Smiles is the voluntary humanitarian service program of the Sri Chinmoy Centre. Since 1991, centre members worldwide have collected and shipped tons of humanitarian supplies to countries in need including South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, India, and, after the tsunami, Sri Lanka. It responds to disaster relief requests, health and education needs, and regional development projects. The program obtains and distributes medical, domestic and educational supplies and toys, working closely with other aid agencies, local NGOs, community groups and corporations.

One would think that this busy schedule and numerous interests would be enough for one man, but not so for Sri Chinmoy. An accomplished composer of music for choir and instruments with 13,000 songs composed in his native Bengali and 7,000 in English, Sri Chinmoy has performed his music free of charge at over 750 concerts worldwide since 1984. Last year, to celebrate his 74th birthday, he played his original compositions on 74 different pianos at an outdoor concert in Queens.

Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York and Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island sponsored an art exhibit of Sri Chinmoy's soul-bird drawings in the Russell Rotunda of the U.S. Senate in 1995.

All told, Sri Chinmoy has written 20,000 songs, taught 300 university lectures, authored 1,550 books, including 112,000 poems, penned 15 million bird drawings, and completed 200,000 "Jharna-Kala" paintings ("Fountain of Art" in his native Bengali).

He has dedicated his life to inspiring and serving all those trying to make the world a better place, whether ordinary citizens or those entrusted with the stewardship of a nation.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the celebration of Sri Chinmoy's upcoming Diamond Jubilee 75th birthday, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me as I wish Sri Chinmoy success in the years ahead and best wishes for a long and continuingly fruitful life.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING THE NA-
TIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution congratulating the National Library of Medicine on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The National Library of Medicine, which is located on the National Institutes of Health campus and is in my Congressional district, was created in 1956 by the National Library of Medicine Act. Before 1956, the National Library of Medicine was known as the Armed Forces Medical Library.

The National Library of Medicine provides invaluable tools for medical librarians such as

the Medical Librarian Association, health consumers, and health professionals to support information access and high-quality health care. With its vast collections in all areas of biomedicine and health care, the National Library of Medicine is the world's largest medical library with more than 8 million items.

Through its extramural grant programs, outreach programs, health information technology research programs, and databases such as Medline/PubMed Central and ClinicalTrials.gov, the National Library of Medicine works to provide the highest quality, most relevant, and timely health information for health professionals and health consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the National Library of Medicine on its 50th anniversary and commend it for its leadership in the health sciences information field.

THE "SWIFT APPROVAL, FULL
EVALUATION (SAFE) DRUG ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Swift Approval, Full Evaluation (SAFE) Drug Act. This bill is designed to ensure that the FDA can balance the need to get important life-saving drugs to the market quickly while ensuring the drugs get the full evaluation they need to ensure the safety of those products. A strong postmarketing study system allows the FDA to achieve a careful balance between speed of approval and careful scrutiny of the products. However, as both the GAO and the Inspector General of HHS recently reported, the system to ensure that postmarketing studies are conducted and completed is broken and the FDA has not made reform a priority.

Postmarketing studies are important because they prevent death, detrimental reliance and waste. They provide critical information about the risks and benefits of a drug after it has been approved and on the market. They can also provide additional information about optimal use of the product and what groups of people are most likely to benefit (or not benefit) from use. Since the long-term effects of products are not usually studied prior to approval, postmarketing studies provide critical information about the risks or benefits of long-term use. Postmarketing studies allow the FDA to approve drugs for to consumers who need them quickly while ensuring that scientists will continue to investigate the best uses of the drug. These studies are particularly important when, in the interest of speeding drugs to consumers, the drugs are approved under the FDA's accelerated approval process.

In 1992, the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, established a process that amounted to a trade-off between its mission to ensure drug safety and effectiveness and the need to speed promising new drugs to market to increase treatment options for life-threatening illnesses. Called accelerated approval, this process allows FDA to approve a drug on an expedited basis using promising but limited information about its safety and effectiveness, but only on the condition that the company agrees to conduct further studies to confirm

the safety and effectiveness of the product. Under the law, drug companies are required to do additional studies to confirm that the drug is safe, effective and works for its approved indication.

The importance of conducting postmarketing studies to ensure the safety of drugs approved through accelerated approval is illustrated by the example of encainide and flecainide. In the 1980's encainide and flecainide were approved to treat ventricular arrhythmia after myocardial infarction. Arrhythmias are a risk factor for heart attacks and encainide and flecainide are very good at suppressing arrhythmias. People assumed that because the drugs were good at suppressing arrhythmias, they would also prevent heart attacks. While this treatment was on the market between 250,000 and 500,000 people were prescribed the drug every year to prevent heart attacks. When the postmarketing clinical trial was conducted to confirm that encainide and flecainide did in fact reduce heart attacks, the study found these drugs actually tripled the rate of death. The drugs were withdrawn from the market. If the postmarketing study had never been completed, doctors would have continued to prescribe a drug that they thought was beneficial but was actually killing people.

Postmarketing studies are also important to ensure that drugs approved through accelerated approval actually work. In May 2003, Iressa, which is manufactured by AstraZeneca, was approved under the accelerated approval process for treatment of non-small cell lung cancer in individuals who have failed to respond to two or more courses of chemotherapy. Iressa showed promise in early studies. The FDA approved Iressa, on the condition that AstraZeneca continue research on the drug to confirm the early results. Complying with the FDA's mandate, AstraZeneca conducted a postmarketing study and found that, for most people, Iressa was not effective. The drug was withdrawn from the market. This trial provided critical information to both physicians and patients who are trying to determine the best course of treatment for this horrible disease. If the postmarketing study had never been completed, doctors would have continued to prescribe it and patients would have continued to spend \$1,800 a month for a drug that is ineffective for most patients when there are alternative treatments available.

Unfortunately, many companies fail to conduct the postmarketing studies they promised to complete as a condition of approval on a timely basis and the public may go years without knowing whether the drugs approved through accelerated approval are really safe and effective. According to information provided by the FDA to my staff on March 30, 2005, drug companies take a very long time before they even initiate postmarketing studies that are required as a condition of approval as of March 9, 2005; companies with outstanding trials had been selling these products to the public for an average of 1 year and 10 months and up to 6 years and 9 months without even initiating the required studies.

Despite the fact that companies often wait years before starting required postmarketing studies, the FDA has never used the only mechanism it has to enforce compliance with the requirement: withdrawal of the product. According to the HHS IG, "Currently, short of withdrawing a drug from the market—a remedy available to FDA only in limited cir-

cumstances—the only short-term, practical options available to FDA in dealing with drug applicants that do not comply with the terms of their commitments are sending letters and placing phone calls. Providing FDA reviewers with additional tools, such as the ability to impose monetary fines, may send a signal to drug applicants that there are consequences when postmarketing study commitments are not fulfilled." The SAFE Drug Act will provide additional enforcement mechanisms.

The system of tracking postmarket safety issues and monitoring and enforcing postmarketing studies is broken and failing to ensure patient safety. The SAFE Drug Act will address these problems by:

(1) Providing the FDA with authority to require postmarketing studies and enforce the prompt completion of those studies;

(2) Providing the FDA with mechanisms to help monitor the progress of postmarketing studies;

(3) Providing the Secretary with the authority to require that the label include specific wording to ensure safe and effective use of a product including special labeling to help consumers identify accelerated approved drugs or biologics until converted to full approval;

(4) Restricting direct to consumer advertising for accelerated approved drugs or biologics until converted to full approval;

(5) Providing FDA employees with enhanced whistleblower protections if they are retaliated against for reporting violations of laws or regulations or a significant threat to public health and safety to Congress, GAO, Federal Agencies, or their bosses; and

(6) Requires reports to Congress on the systems to track postmarketing safety issues and approvals that are based on Non-Inferiority Trials.

According to a recent Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive health-care poll, a majority of the American public is concerned about the FDA's ability to ensure the safety and efficacy of drugs. We need to stop the erosion of public confidence in the FDA, reform the system of postmarketing studies, and ensure that FDA balances the desire to speed drugs to market with its critical role as the watchdog of public health. I urge my colleagues to support the SAFE Drug Act.

TRIBUTE TO RUKERT TERMINALS CORPORATION'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to commemorate the Rukert Terminals Corporation's 85th Anniversary. Located in Baltimore, Maryland, Rukert Terminals Corporation, which specializes in salts, metals, ores, and fertilizers, is one of the city's premier privately owned marine terminal operators.

Since its foundation in 1921 by William G. Norman or "Cap" Rukert, Rukert Terminals has been a hard-working, family owned business that has thrived due to its strong commitment to quality service. Due to the leadership of Norman Rukert and his son, Rukert Terminals has developed over the years from a sin-

gle truck and stable business to occupying more than one million square feet of storage space. Through the use of the most modern techniques, Rukert Terminals handles the nation's dry and break-bulk cargoes to ensure transfer and storage of the highest caliber. For several decades, the company has continuously provided quality jobs to the citizens of Baltimore.

The city of Baltimore is an excellent place to live, filled with hard-working, dedicated citizens. The Port of Baltimore's economic contributions have been tremendous, generating \$2 billion in revenue annually, and employing 19,000 Marylanders in direct jobs, and another 87,000 in indirect and maritime-related occupations. Rukert Terminals is part of the success of this port city, supplying superior warehousing, stevedoring, and vessel transfer services for the region.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in honoring this third generation family business, which for eighty-five years has provided quality marine services to one of America's premier cities while maintaining a standard for excellence that is a model for the rest.

RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN STODDARD OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Stoddard of the U.S. Army who is the Program Manager for Crew Served Weapons.

Col. Stoddard has set a standard of excellence for himself and his office, constantly striving to ensure that our troops are issued the best equipment possible during the Global War on Terrorism. Though he has had many great achievements, Col. Stoddard should be recognized for his contributions to the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, or CROWS project.

Col. Stoddard has had the individual responsibility for ushering this innovative piece of technology out of development and into the hands of our Soldiers. His steadfast commitment to protecting the force has ensured that today's standard for Humvee convoys in Iraq and Afghanistan is a soldier operating CROWS from behind life saving armor, protected from lethal IEDs and gun fire.

Col. Stoddard used firsthand feedback from Soldiers to lead his program office and partner contractors in ensuring that the CROWS developed today is the technology soldiers want and need. His high standards of leadership and commitment to program excellence brought him to Iraq where he personally observed CROWS in combat to prove his concept and vision. Indeed, Col. Stoddard is personally responsible for saving the lives of many Soldiers currently deployed overseas.

Mr. Speaker, Col. Stoddard and CROWS have truly been a force protection success story for the Army and our soldiers. He embodies the highest tenants of leadership, acquisition reform, and the Army's innovative rapid fielding initiative and is worthy of our commendation today.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JAMES A.
HARRIS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, the Reverend James A. Harris, on his 80th birthday, which he will celebrate on August 25, 2006.

Reverend Harris has led a life of distinction and accomplishment. After growing up in Des Moines, Iowa, he served as a combat pilot with the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. He went on to receive Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees at Drake University and later earned post-graduate degrees at Drake Divinity College, Oklahoma A&M University, and American University.

Reverend Harris's numerous accomplishments and contributions to our community include his service as the first African American male President of the National Education Association (1974–75) and as a principal in the D.C. Public School system from 1975–88. He is a lifetime educator and scholar and a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. His career as a founder and pastor of Faith Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland has enabled him to make a difference in countless lives. Named one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" by *Ebony Magazine* in 1975, Reverend Harris has been known for his humility and service to Montgomery County, Maryland for more than 25 years. His leadership has had a tremendous impact on countless individuals throughout our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank Reverend Harris for his many years of service to our community and to our nation. I extend my heartiest congratulations to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday, and I hope his celebrations this year and in the years to come are filled with the love and happiness of his family and friends.

INTRODUCTION OF SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Senator JACK REED (D-RI) in the Senate, introduce legislation that will establish a Commission on the Survey of Income and Program Participation. The President has proposed eliminating the SIPP in his FY 2007 Budget, with a redesigned survey to take its place in 2009. This is careless, as it takes away one of the most valuable sources of data on the economic well-being of American families. The SIPP Commission represents a fair process for changing or eliminating the survey if the need arises. Should someone wish to change the SIPP, a detailed proposal outlining the change, its justification, and the timetable on which it should take place, will be submitted to the SIPP Commission for evaluation. Members of the Commission would include the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, one

appointed member from Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Social Security Administration, the Bureau of the Census, and two members from the National Academy of Sciences.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE STAFF OF THE JAMES HALEY VA MEDICAL CENTER'S POLYTRAUMA REHABILITATION CENTER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the James Haley VA Medical Center, VAMC, in Tampa, FL, is one of the busiest veterans' medical facilities in the country and provides care to approximately 142,000 veterans in Central Florida. The Tampa VAMC is also home to one of four designated polytrauma rehabilitation centers in the country where the most severely injured service members are treated.

Military service personnel wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan may have serious traumatic brain injuries alone or in combination with amputation, visual impairments, orthopedic injuries, hearing disorders and mental health concerns. The unique nature of these severe multiple injuries has created the need for a blast injury program that can address the medical, psychological, rehabilitation, and prosthetic needs of these individuals.

The Tampa VAMC has been recognized as a Center of Excellence in Rehabilitation and Spinal Cord Medicine. At the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, a team of as many as 10 specialists assess the needs of the catastrophically injured and their families, to determine a comprehensive treatment plan which will help each person reach the highest level of physical, emotional, and social independence in the home, workplace and community. More than 2,500 outpatients and 140 inpatients have been treated at the Tampa Polytrauma Center since the program began.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have spent a great deal of time at the James Haley VAMC, which serves many of the veterans who reside in my congressional district. Over the years, I have been impressed by the dedication of the men and women who work at the medical center, providing quality care and services to our Nation's veterans. Dr. Steven Scott, the chief of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service, and his polytrauma team should certainly be counted among the dedicated staff of the VAMC.

The Veterans' Affairs Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, which I chair, has visited the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. We had an opportunity to spend time with some of our wounded Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom service members being treated at the Polytrauma Center. We also heard from their family members who repeatedly praised the polytrauma staff for the compassionate and professional care their loved ones were receiving.

One of the things that stood out when we visited the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation

Center was the positive outlook of the patients and their families—despite everything they had already been through and the daunting road of rehabilitation that still lay ahead of them. In part, I think they were able to maintain this positive attitude because of the tremendous dedication and caring work of the Polytrauma Center staff.

Dr. Scott and his staff have also been vocal advocates for their patients, raising issues to my subcommittee's attention which have improved the quality of care and services provided to polytrauma patients.

On August 5, 2006, Dr. Scott and his staff are being recognized for their service to our Nation's wounded service members and veterans. I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to each of them and commend them for the tremendous service they provide to our wounded military personnel and veterans.

Members of the James Haley polytrauma team: Forest Farley, Jr., hospital director; Dr. Steven Scott, D.O., chief, Polytrauma Center; Dr. John Merritt, M.D., chief, Spinal Cord Injury; Dr. Joel Scholten, M.D.; Dr. Cecille Pope, M.D.; Dr. Gail Latief, D.O.; Dr. Faiza Humayun, M.D.; Dr. Rebecca Kayo, Ph.D.; MAJ Steve Moten, U.S. Army, DoD Liaison; SGM Vincent Conti, U.S. Army, DoD Liaison; Carolyn Clark, public affairs officer; Barbara Darkangelo, P.T.; Judith Pink-Goldin, O.T.; Marti Veneman, R.N. and nurse manager; Nancy Kronawetter, R.N.; Diana Cronin, R.N.; Karen Meigs, R.N.; Lea Rashka, R.N.; Joann Estep, L.P.N.; Barbara Collas, L.P.N.; Patrice Thompson, L.P.N.; Annies Joy, L.P.N.; Paula O'Keefe, R.N.; Bernice Willis, R.N.; Chaplain David LeFavor; Ivan Colon, R.N.; Frank Bormet, R.N.; Debra Banks, R.N.; Elizabeth Butron, R.N.; Pamela Keckler, L.P.N.; Ryan Baker, L.P.N.; Earl Gray, N.A.; Tracey Vaness, V.R.T.; James MacAulay, V.R.T.; Laura Manore, A.A.; Deborah Studer, S.W.; Margaret Veneman, N.M.; Douglas Gephart, P.M.R. coord.; Leslie Rothman, recreational therapy; Linda Picon, S.L.P.; Laurel Adams, O.T.; Juan Jose Villeda, P.T.; Steve Klemz, S.W.; Felicia Santos, S.W.; Jeanetta Sheppard, S.W.; Diana Phillpotts, S.W.; June Demaree, S.W.; Abby Wolf, recreational therapy; Laureen Doloresco, assistant chief, nursing; Sandra Janzen, ACOS nursing service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREPAREDNESS FIRST ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, America needs to be prepared. Whether for a commuter train attack, as we saw recently in India, or a hurricane, like we are still rebuilding from in New Orleans, it is clear America must get serious about all-hazards preparedness, that is preparing for all emergencies—be they natural or man-made.

Yesterday I introduced the Preparedness First Act to authorize critical grant programs that our State and local governments already depend on for all-hazards emergency preparation.

The premise of H.R. 5910 is to ensure that States and localities will have a basic level of

preparedness, so they can protect their citizens, communicate with each other, and work with the Federal Government during any type of emergency, from earthquakes to hurricanes to terrorist attacks.

The legislation starts by authorizing the Emergency Management Performance Grants Program, EMPG. The EMPG program provides broad base grants to ensure that States and localities have adequate, coordinated and up-to-date plans to respond to all-hazards emergencies.

In my bill, eligibility for all project grants is linked to their inclusion in these emergency plans. This will help ensure that projects will be vetted, remain a priority, and fit in with an overall plan of preparedness.

Next, the bill authorizes the State Homeland Security Grant Program, SHSGP, which awards block grants to States based on the risk of natural and man-made disasters. These grant funds buy the materials and supplies States need according to their emergency plans.

The bill also authorizes the Metropolitan Medical Response System, MMRS, to give regions the tools they need to respond to major medical emergencies caused by either natural disasters or a terrorist attack.

Finally, we authorize the Urban Area Security Initiative, UASI, to give the added resources which are specifically needed for larger cities to respond to terrorism. Approval of UASI grants, like all of the grants in H.R. 5910, is tied to the inclusion of projects in State and local emergency plans.

Under my bill, all States would receive a base of preparedness funding. This would guarantee the Federal Government an able partner in every State to coordinate preparedness activities. Additional resources would

then be made available to address the unique risk of natural and man-made disasters that are posed to each area.

This Federal and regional coordination is exactly what emergency managers have been calling for. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5910 and put all-hazard preparedness first for all Americans.

HONORING MR. JAMES J. PADILLA
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM FORD MOTOR
COMPANY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, Mr. James J. Padilla, as he retires from a rewarding career with Ford Motor Company, where he served as President and Chief Operating Officer.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Padilla earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering, as well as a master's degree in economics all from the University of Detroit. Mr. Padilla started his career with Ford Motor Company in 1966 as a quality control engineer. Ten years later, he accepted the first of what would be many managerial positions he would hold during the balance of his tenure with Ford.

On his way to becoming the President and Chief Operating Officer of Ford Motor Company, Mr. Padilla served as Manufacturing Operations Manager for several of Ford's most successful lines of cars. He is also largely to thank for the dramatic turnaround of the Jag-

uar line, for which he served as Director of Engineering and Manufacturing.

As Ford's Executive Vice President of the America's, Mr. Padilla spearheaded Ford Motor Company's North American recovery, vastly improving the quality and innovation of this division's products.

In 2004, Mr. Padilla became the President and Chief Operating Officer of Ford Motor Company and took his seat on the Company's Board of Directors. In his final post with Ford, Mr. Padilla was responsible for the global automotive business, overseeing marketing, manufacturing, engineering and other operations in more than 200 markets with over 327,000 employees.

Over the course of Mr. Padilla's illustrious career, he has received numerous honors including Mexico's Ohtli Award, the Society of Plastics Engineers 2004 Executive Leadership Award, and the Society of Automotive Engineers' Manufacturing Leadership Award. Mr. Padilla is also a member of the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference Hall of Fame. In 2003, Mr. Padilla was honored by the Gabriel Richards Historical Society for his outstanding vision and leadership toward the revitalization of Detroit and the surrounding communities.

As James J. Padilla enters his retirement years, I wish him and his wife, Alice, the best and I sincerely hope that he can enjoy a relaxing and rewarding future. I thank him for everything he has done for Ford Motor Company and the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me and all of my colleagues in honoring James J. Padilla for his leadership, dedication, and drive over the course of his 40 years of loyal service with Ford Motor Company.