

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE
"JAKE" JACOBSEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Nevada State Senator Lawrence "Jake" Jacobsen, who passed away on Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

Jake, who made his home in Minden, NV, retired from the legislature in 2002 as the longest-serving legislator in Nevada history, having served 16 years in the Assembly and 24 in the Senate. Over his long and distinguished career, Jake must have been proudest of his work on behalf of the state's veterans and the Department of Corrections honor camp system, and his fight for preservation of the Stewart Indian School and Marlette Lake. Jake was also a volunteer firefighter in Carson Valley for more than 50 years, and has fought several fires side-by-side with Forest Service personnel. As president of the Minden Engine Company for 25 years and a lawmaker for 40 years, Jake has supported firefighting and preserved funding for fire crews.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of former state Senator Lawrence "Jake" Jacobsen. In his long and distinguished career as a legislator in the State Senate he touched countless lives. He was a good friend, one whom I had the pleasure of serving with for 8 years. He will be greatly missed by all the citizens of Nevada.

THE AVAILABILITY OF AVIAN FLU
RESEARCH DATA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter along with my colleagues to the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding avian flu data on July 6, 2006.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 6, 2006.

Mr. MIKE LEAVITT,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY LEAVITT: As the looming threat of a pandemic flu continues, the need to take cost effective and time-saving steps to boost our capacity and response speed is vital. The free flow of information, in particular, can accelerate research, and the development of vaccines, saving lives. In the case of Avian Flu, the very properties we fear the most—the ease with which the virus is transmitted and its ability to kill its host—are encoded in the virus' genome. Yet the genetic sequences are currently only immediately available to a select group of researchers, a practice which is hampering and delaying our ability to respond to the threat of the pandemic influenza. We will need as many scientific eyes as possible examining the problem.

Though an adequate response to a future pandemic will require the cooperation of all involved countries, the US should show leadership commensurate with its expertise and wealth. We therefore applaud your request of the World Health Assembly, the decision making body of the World Health Organization, that they "pledge with me to abide by four principles of pandemic preparedness: Transparency, rapid reporting, data sharing, and scientific cooperation."

We ask that you set these principles into motion by requiring data from HHS-funded research on avian influenza and genetic sequences, in particular, to be promptly deposited in a publicly accessible repository such as GenBank, the sequence database of the National Institutes of Health. Researchers for the Human Genome Project published their sequences in a public database within 24 hours. Calls for the immediate deposition of sequence data have come from some of the most renowned scientists in the world in the field of avian influenza.

Some scientists and countries are reluctant to release their genetic and clinical data for fear of loss of scientific credit or that the information will be used to create a technology, such as a vaccine, that will then be priced out of their reach. In particular, certain countries are refusing to release their sequences. Unfortunately, those countries are reported to include several current or past hot spots for H5N1. These concerns can be satisfied. There are already public databases holding tens of thousands of genetic sequences that have intellectual property protections in place to prevent just such problems. While many countries may have policies in place to prevent the open sharing of such information, stressing the importance of rapid response worldwide is vital.

In the event of a pandemic, the public will need to be able to trust that their government and scientists are acting with the transparency, speed and cooperation you requested. The United States can take this opportunity to take on a critical leadership role.

Sincerely,
Dennis J. Kucinich, Sheila Jackson-Lee,
Jim McDermott, John Conyers, Jr.,
Wayne T. Gilchrest, Tammy Baldwin,
Diana DeGette, Ellen O. Tauscher,
Lynn C. Woolsey, John W. Olver, Major
R. Owens, Barbara Lee, Dale E. Kildee,
William J. Jefferson, Madeleine Z.
Bordallo, Bernie Sanders.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be on the House floor for rollcall votes 412 and 413. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on both votes.

HONORING CHANNEL LOGISTICS,
LLC

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Channel Logistics, LLC for their recent achievement in maritime domain and seaport security.

On April 1, 2006, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers presented their Annual Corporate Innovation Award to Channel Logistics, LLC during the Institute's annual awards dinner in Philadelphia. The award recognizes the company's development of the Computer Assisted Threat Evaluation System. This system evaluates potential maritime and port security threats among ships, crew and cargo entering our ports. It is able to evaluate threats by analyzing information contained within maritime databases through the processes of data fusion, pattern and choke point mapping.

This technology plays an important role in uncovering possible terrorist threats to our vulnerable maritime and port infrastructures. I am proud that Camden, NJ-based Channel Logistics, LLC is a leader in developing innovative technologies designed to secure our country and ports, and I congratulate them on receiving the IEEE's distinguished Annual Corporate Innovation Award.

HONORING BOB BRAUER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of Robert Brauer of Berkeley, CA. A visionary and courageous public servant, Bob has dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. Bob's unwavering commitment to social justice has inspired me and many others to dedicate our lives to this struggle, and has impacted the lives of countless others in California's 9th Congressional District and across our country. This month Bob "retires" after a lifetime of working for the advancement of a more just and equitable society for us all, and today I join our entire community in saluting him for his public exemplary service.

Bob's dedication to public service has been evident since he was a young adult. After graduating in 1960 from the University of California, Berkeley, where he met his wife Penny, Bob was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He was stationed in El Paso, TX, in the Strategic Air Command, and served there until 1963 when he left the Air Force as a Captain.

Upon completion of his service in the Air Force, Bob and his family, which by then included his wife, a son, and two young daughters, returned to Berkeley, CA, where he began a new job as an Assistant Personnel

• 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.

Officer at Wells Fargo Bank, where he was an integral part of Wells Fargo's participation in the industry-wide effort in California to integrate women and minorities into parts of the workforce in which they were dramatically underrepresented.

Following that job, Bob became the Skills Bank Director for the Bay Area Urban League, a role in which he was responsible for creating job opportunities for and placing minorities in jobs that had historically been inaccessible to them. During this time, Bob was also very active in civic and political affairs, serving in leadership positions in a number of local organizations, and with his wife Penny, he was very active in local political campaigns. Bob was appointed to the Recreation and Parks Commission by then-Berkeley City Council member Ron Dellums, and around that time he was also named as President of the Catholic Interracial Council of the Diocese of Oakland. He and his wife continued their activism in the farm workers' and civil rights struggles, the anti-Vietnam War movement and other local issues related to the ongoing fight for social justice.

In 1969, Bob became the Regional Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC), Department of Labor, and soon became the OFCC Assistant Director in Washington, DC. In this role he helped to develop the national plan to integrate the construction trades, as well as the Philadelphia Plan's goals and timetables for women and minorities. Bob and his family, which by that time had grown considerably, moved to Bethesda, MD.

In 1971, the Secretary of Labor nominated Bob and the American Political Science Association (APSA) selected him to be an APSA Congressional Fellow, and he spent the next year working in the office of his friend, the newly elected Congressman Ron Dellums of California's then 7th District. At the end of his fellowship he left the Department of Labor and joined Mr. Dellums' staff.

This marked the beginning of what would become more than two decades of distinguished service to California's now-9th Congressional District and to our country. Bob would serve as Special Counsel to Congressman Dellums and for the House District of Columbia Committee during Mr. Dellums' chairmanship. In 1993, Bob became a Senior Professional Staff Member on the House Armed Services Committee when Mr. Dellums became the HASC Chairman.

Bob was an integral part not only of the personal office and Committee staffs, but he played a major role in supporting Mr. Dellums' many policy initiatives during those years. At the DC Committee, Bob helped implement bold initiatives to use the Committee as a vehicle for promulgating solutions to some of the District's, and the Nation's, most important urban problems: mass transportation, pension reform, health care and infant mortality and education reform, among others. Among his most notable activities were his work on the investigation of the U.S. Intelligence Community undertaken by the Pike Select Committee, the successful authorization of the 50-foot federal channel dredging project at the Port of Oakland, and the construction of the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building in Oakland. Bob was also centrally involved in the drafting and passage of Mr. Dellums' incredibly important anti-apartheid bill in the House of Representa-

tives in the 1980s, a bill which became law over the veto of then-President Reagan. Throughout his time in Washington, Bob was also actively involved in international human rights issues, traveling as a peace observer several times to wartorn countries in Central America in the 1970s and 1980s, at the risk of his own life. On the HASC staff he played a significant role in maintaining Mr. Dellums' excellent working relationships with both sides of the aisle and assisting Mr. Dellums to accomplish one of the House's most exemplary chairmanships.

I met Bob during his early years in Congressman Dellums' personal office. I was then an intern for Congressman Dellums. I will never forget the way he supported and guided me, and helped me to not only become engaged in politics and policy, but also to become an effective advocate for social justice. For over 30 years, Bob has been a willing mentor, an advisor, a teacher and a friend, and serving the 9th Congressional District and our country alongside him has been and continues to be a great honor.

Bob worked for Congressman Dellums until the end of 1996. In 1997, Bob became Special Assistant to the President of California State University, Hayward, where he played a crucial role in the sizeable structural improvements, enrollment increases, and expansion of that campus into a leading institution in our state. During that time he has also continued to serve our community in numerous other roles, such as a volunteer Board member of the Chabot Observatory and Science Center, where he was responsible for raising close to \$60 million to build a new facility in Oakland.

Bob recently retired from the renamed CSU East Bay, and today I would like to add my voice to the countless others that are expressing their congratulations and their gratitude to this extraordinary individual for his tireless work and ceaseless advocacy for social justice and equality of opportunity in the United States and around the world. On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I am humbled to honor Bob Brauer for his extraordinary service to our community, and to wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his life of conviction, character, and integrity.

RECOGNIZING DELLA HOERL
HUECKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mrs. Della Hoerl Huecker of Booneville, MO. As a long time citizen of Bunceton, MO, and then Booneville, Mrs. Byrd will be celebrating her 90th birthday on August 14, 2006. She has seen many events over the past 90 years and awoke each day with a strong sense of family and community that improved the lives of everyone she has touched. Her life should be celebrated with the same joy and excitement in which she gives back to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Mrs. Della Hoerl Huecker. Throughout her 90 years, she has always given back more than was expected of her.

Her life is an inspiration to many and I am proud to serve her in the United States Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHAD
CHRISTOFFERSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chad Christofferson, who has served my office—and more importantly, the American people—with distinction for the past 2 years.

Chad started in my office as a legislative correspondent in 2004. His organizational skills and ability to effectively respond to constituent concerns earned him a promotion the following year to the legislative staff of the U.S. House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, which I chair.

In his current role, Chad has worked on many issues, but particularly of note, he has become one of our lead staffers on the Subcommittee's health initiatives. He has gained respect among leaders of the healthcare community by his quick grasp and thorough knowledge of complex health information technology matters that have gone into crafting the Federal Family Health Information Technology Act, a bill I introduced giving Federal employees electronic access to their own health records maintained under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. This legislation has a simple goal—to save lives by reducing medical errors.

Chad's work has been exemplary, and he is driven by personal devotion to integrity and public service. In fact, it is his commitment to improving the lives of others and his work on our health information technology legislation that led to his recent decision to pursue a career in medicine. And so, Chad is heading home to Utah, where this fall he will enroll in the school of pharmacology at Brigham Young University.

I have spoken of Chad's dedication and professionalism, which by themselves are deserving of thanks and recognition. He will continue to be a servant to others by fighting disease and illness, and, in so doing will reaffirm the values that make America the land of hope and opportunity to the world. I wish him Godspeed.

THE RESEARCH AGENDA FOR
NIEHS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter along with my colleagues to the Director of the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences regarding environmental health research on July 11, 2006.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2006.

Dr. DAVID A. SCHWARTZ,
Director, National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences,
Research Triangle Park, NC.

DEAR DR. SCHWARTZ: We are writing to encourage you to ensure the continued focus of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) on preventable health risks associated with environmental sources and exposures, as you develop a program of greater relevance to human disease. An emphasis on discovering the role of environmental exposures in human health, disease, and disabilities will increase the importance of your proposed "roadmap" for NIEHS. We look forward to the future support and growth of the following established initiatives:

RESEARCH ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT

Environmental exposures, and often diseases, occur with disproportionate impact on the health and well-being of local communities, particularly those already impacted by other risk factors for health disparities. Thus, continuing the focus of NIEHS support for community-based research will serve the health needs of the American public. It will also contribute to increased knowledge of acquired factors in complex situations involving other preventable risks that too often track with economic and political inequalities. The men, women, and children of unfairly impacted communities often must work, live, play, and attend school in environments that are contaminated at levels that exceed national averages, and sometimes even exceed legal limits, but often lack the resources to initiate scientific investigations. NIEHS research and outreach provides critical data that supports strategies to prevent or treat disease and disabilities among these communities, as well as regulatory action to identify contamination sources for targeted clean up.

RESEARCH ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT

Chronic diseases that show up later in life are frequently the result of preventable environmental exposures to pesticides, air pollution, and many other exposures that occur early in life. For this reason, continued support for research programs focused on children's health and environmental contaminants is a priority for our constituents and for the future of America's health. Examples of this kind of research currently supported by NIEHS include: pesticide impacts on cancer and brain development among children of agriculture communities; air pollution impacts on asthma and allergies among inner city children; and, industrial pollution impacts on learning and behavior among school children.

TIMELY AND COMPLETE REPORT ON
CARCINOGENS

In order to efficiently manage environmental health risks like chemicals, we must have accurate information on their toxicity. The Report on Carcinogens (RoC) is a biannual, congressionally mandated report that scientifically evaluates the scientific evidence to compile a list of all substances known or suspected to cause human cancers and to which Americans are exposed. The RoC is a reference standard for the private sector, for certain legislation, and is even used overseas as an authoritative text on carcinogens. The timely release of this critical Report is a priority for state and federal regulators, for international regulatory bodies, for communities, and for Members of Congress.

Sustaining these strategic initiatives in connection with your new initiatives will

contribute to the success of new research directions at NIEHS, and ensure that research findings on environmental factors are fully translated into protecting public health. We look forward to working with you to properly fund and support these programs.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich.
Louis Capps.
Rush Holt.
Bart Gordon.
Barbara Lee.
James E. Clyburn.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN LOWERY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jonathan Lowery of Pattonsburg, Missouri. Over the past few months, Jonathan has served as my office intern. In aiding the day to day operations of the office, he has worked with enthusiasm and dedication. His efforts to represent my office have been commended by both my staff and our constituents.

As a student at Northwest Missouri State University, Jonathan has been pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration and came to Washington, DC, this summer through the Stennis Congressional Intern Program. His ambition and interest in politics and government have been evident from the day he started his internship. He has a true commitment to the workings of government and his enthusiasm in helping the people of the 6th District is something to be admired.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jonathan Lowery. He has been great to have in the office and his efforts are much appreciated. I wish him the best and that his future ambitions in the law and public service will be fulfilled. He will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

H.J. RES. 88, THE "MARRIAGE
PROTECTION AMENDMENT"

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 2006, I voted against passage of H.J. Res. 88, a constitutional amendment to bar same-sex marriages.

The text of H.J. Res. 88, the Marriage Protection Amendment, reads as follows: "Marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

Marriage and family law have traditionally been regulated by state, rather than federal, laws. Current federal law, as well as some

state laws, already prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Further, in 1996, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, DOMA, which prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows individual states to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Some believe the Marriage Protection Amendment is necessary to strengthen the institution of marriage. While the amendment's supporters claim that it simply would remove the issue of same sex marriage from the courts, the text of the amendment also would remove decision making authority from Congress and state legislatures, where marriage and family law have traditionally been regulated.

My personal belief is that marriage is a union between a man and a woman, but that the regulation of marriage should be left to the states.

In 2004, Vice President DICK CHENEY spoke on the subject of a constitutional marriage amendment during a campaign appearance in Davenport, Iowa, when he said: The question that comes up with the issue of marriage is what kind of official sanction or approval is going to be granted by government? Historically, that's been a relationship that has been handled by the states. The states have made that fundamental decision of what constitutes a marriage. He also went on to say that with respect to the question of relationships, my general view is freedom means freedom for everyone.

I agree with Vice President CHENEY's remarks, and voted against the Marriage Protection Amendment on the House floor. This amendment would break sharply from our nation's commitment to, and constitutional tradition of, protecting individual rights. The truth is—and the proponents of this Amendment know it—there was not any chance for this to become a Constitutional Amendment. Just last month the Senate refused to pass it! The House Amendment was simply another effort by certain people to advance their political agenda. I support equal rights for all Americans. I am committed to a nation in which all Americans can share equally in the protections of the law.

IN HONOR OF MARTHA LOIS
MCGINNIS CAMERON NORTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and promise of Martha Lois McGinnis Cameron Norton, or just simply Martha. I have known Martha much of my life as the "go to woman" in local elections. She is one of those Americans who embodies the meaning of the word citizenship; who works always to strengthen the quality of our democracy. Martha was born in Washington, Iowa, in 1922. She grew up on a farm and spent her childhood raising corn, tending hogs, and seeing to all the other chores of an Iowa farm girl. But being from Washington, she had politics in her blood. As a child she saw both President Hoover and Governor Roosevelt speak during the 1932 presidential campaign. Four years later she worked her

first of many campaigns when she helped re-elect President Roosevelt.

While Martha built a remarkable professional career as a research scientist and educator, it is her relentless political activism that I wish to focus on today. That activism began in earnest in 1946 when Martha joined a local campaign to save San Francisco's landmark cable car system. In 1956, she worked to re-elect President Eisenhower. In 1959, she helped run her father's successful write-in campaign to become Mayor of her hometown.

In 1962 Martha moved to Monterey and hasn't stopped since. She soon worked on a variety of local races, including several of my father's, who was then serving in the California State Senate. In the late '60s, she worked on the coastal protection campaign that culminated in the voters 1972 adoption of the landmark Coastal Act. That same year Martha became a Democrat. As a young woman, she registered Republican on the advice of her mother who said that it was the Republicans who secured the vote for women. But she had become disenchanted with the direction that the Republican Party had taken, especially in civil rights, and followed Leon Panetta in making the switch.

In 1976, Martha worked as a precinct walker in Leon Panetta's successful race against Congressman Burt Talcott. She also worked on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign, coordinating more than 100 volunteers from their teens into their 70s. In the '80s, she helped elect two pivotal Monterey County Supervisors, Sam Karas and Karin Strasser Kauffman. In 1996 she volunteered once again for Karin, in her primary race for the local state Assembly seat. While Karin lost the race, Martha felt that democrat Fred Keeley went on to be a great Assemblymember. And all along, Martha was instrumental in my own campaigns for local, state, and federal office.

Martha truly is the tireless volunteer. In addition to her campaign work, Martha has devoted countless hours to many different boards, commissions, and other community organizations, including the MPUSD school board, the Highway 68 committee, the Toxic Waste committee for Fort Ord, several League of Women Voters committees, and local Democratic committees and clubs. Martha also served several stints as the President of the Peninsula Women's Democratic Club. She has worked tirelessly over the years to register voters and encourage participation in the political process. And it is this grass roots commitment to making democracy work that deserves the attention of this House because it is the people like Martha across this country that keep our democracy alive and well.

CONGRATULATING MELISSA BROWN—SELECTED AS GRAND PRIZE WINNER IN OLIVE GARDEN'S NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a winning essay written by a very special constituent, 10th grade student

Melissa Brown, a resident of Broomall, Pennsylvania.

Melissa's essay was chosen from nearly 11,000 entries written by students in first through 12th grade who were asked to "describe how a person or experience has made an important impact on your life."

In her essay, Melissa describes the many lessons she has learned from her brother, Josh. Her words are not only inspirational, but powerful in a message we can all take to heart. This young writer captures what family means for so many of us—love, acceptance and learning from one another. The text of her essay follows:

When people are asked, who has influenced you most in your life, most have to think about it. For me, I could answer that question in less than a second. My little brother Josh, without a doubt, has influenced me more than anyone.

Josh has Down Syndrome, which is a genetic disorder. It makes him do some things a little slower than most kids his age. But Josh is an exceptional child. He is extremely smart. He knows every little detail about every single animal, ever. He loves collecting anything that is long and skinny and giving them names and personalities. His memory is amazing and he learned all his letters, and some words, by the time he was 2 years old. He also reads fluently and does well in school. He has overcome many obstacles to really be a success.

Josh is the most loving and open person you will ever meet. He greets you with a smile that lights up a room. Josh isn't like most people who look at your appearance and judge you by that. He looks straight into your heart and will open his arms to you.

Living with Josh has taught me numerous things. The main thing he's taught me is to not judge a book by its cover. I need to look inside a person and find out what they're like inside before I make assumptions. Josh has made me sensitive to people that are less fortunate than I am. I realize I've been blessed and need to share that with others who need it. He's taught me that when I see people who are different, I shouldn't stare but should smile at them. One little smile can make a person's day. I've also learned not take life so seriously. Josh is one of those people who finds pleasure in little things. So I need to be able to find the good things in life and take pleasure in little things.

When people first see Josh, they may think that he looks weird or that he's just a little brother. Well, he's neither of those. He is an adorable little 11-year-old who is bounding with energy and love. He also is the one who makes me laugh, gives me support and is my best friend. I tell people that he is the person who has inspired me most in my life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA GROW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Grow for her years of service as a high school teacher and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America advisor.

Patricia earned a Bachelor's Degree in Homemaking Education from Utah State University, and then a Master's in Occupational Administration at Northern Arizona University.

After graduating, she moved to Overton, Nevada, and began her teaching career as a substitute. She continued substitute teaching for eight years until she became the full-time Home Economics teacher at Moapa Valley High School.

For the past thirty years, Patricia has educated high school students and advised her chapter of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, FCCLA. Patricia followed the growth of the community from the old high school to the new one, and, upon the expansion of the Home Economics program, she became the instructor for the Independent Living and Child Development and the Fashion and Quilting courses. Her hard work has been instrumental in bringing the program's courses to full enrollment.

Patricia has won a number of awards for her service to students, including Outstanding Service to Vocational Education in 1986, Outstanding Faculty for 1992–1993, the Nevada Vocational Association Award of Service in 1996, and Educator of the Year for 1999–2000. She is retiring this year after three decades of teaching.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Patricia Grow for her years of service as an educator in Nevada. Education is truly an admirable career, and I commend her dedication to Nevada's youth. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

CLIMATE CHANGE: UNDERSTANDING THE DEGREE OF THE PROBLEM?

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I made the attached statement in the House Government Reform Committee regarding global warming on July 20, 2006.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS J. KUCINICH, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this important hearing on Climate Change, the first such substantive hearing in the House in recent memory. If we are to successfully deal with global warming, it cannot be a partisan issue. It will require our full attention and an inestimable share of our resources, which requires united leadership. This hearing, therefore, is a major step in the right direction. However, I was disappointed to hear the Administration's testimony today which is decidedly partisan. Indeed it continues to try to put a happy face on bad policies and take credit for work it has not done.

A good place to start is the Administration's claim to have reduced greenhouse gas "intensity" during its tenure. Efficiency gains make the "intensity" go down anyway. Moreover, this deceptive rhetorical device diverts attention from its failure to set a goal for greenhouse gas emissions reductions that is consistent with that which is justified by the current science. California has done so, calling for an 80 percent reduction. Holland is now cutting emissions by 80 percent in 40 years. Tony Blair has committed the UK to cutting emissions by 60 percent in 50 years. Germany has obligated itself to cuts of 50 percent in 50 years. Several months ago, French President Chirac called on the entire industrial world to cut emissions 75 percent by 2050.

In fact, this is only one of the instances in which this Administration has thumbed its nose at the international community. There is not only an unwillingness to move forward with substantive action on global warming, there is active resistance, and, in fact, bullying of other countries. The Administration started by walking away from the Kyoto protocol. I was in Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. Nothing of significance from the U.S. I went to Buenos Aires for the Conference of the Parties in 2004. Nothing of significance from the U.S. In Montreal, Harlan Watson walked out of negotiations in what was perceived in international media as a tantrum when the Administration didn't get its way. There was an agreement in the G8 that the U.S. re-engage on the issue. It did not happen.

Instead, we see not only rhetorical red herrings, but we see Enron accounting techniques being used to create the illusion that something is being done. The GAO released a report in August 2005 called *Climate Change; Federal Reports on Climate Change Funding Should Be Clearer and More Complete*. This report listed suspect activities claimed by the OMB as spending on global warming, including such efforts as the "Andean Counterdrug Initiative."

Making matters worse, the Administration advocates for dealing with global warming by advocating for nuclear power. Nuclear power has been shown to be greenhouse gas intensive, it is far less cost effective than renewables, far less polluting than renewables, and facilitates further proliferation of nuclear weapons materials. We are trading our addiction to oil and all the problems that go with it, for nuclear power and a whole new set of equally pernicious problems that go with it, when common sense alternatives are readily available or within our reach.

In the meantime, it is becoming increasingly clear that the effects of global warming are already being felt. The United Nations has declared that at least 5 million cases of illness and more than 150,000 deaths every year are attributable to global warming. The 2003 European heat wave killed over 20,000 people. The 10 hottest years on record have occurred in the last 15 years. Two consecutive record-breaking hurricane seasons.

Exactly how bad does it have to get?

IN MEMORY OF ARMY CAPTAIN
BLAKE H. RUSSELL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On July 22, 2006, the Department of Defense declared that Army Captain Blake H. Russell (United States Army, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division) died from injuries that he suffered from an explosion while investigating a possible weapons cache in Baghdad, Iraq. Russell enlisted in the Navy in 1989 after graduating from Fort Worth Boswell High School. After completing his Navy obligations, Russell enrolled at Texas A&M University and upon graduation, he joined the Army.

His family describes Russell as a soldier who professed that he chose the military profession so "he could fight the bad guys over there so (his son) could be safe here."

Russell served with distinction during his military career which included two tours in

Iraq. In the Navy, Russell served as an anti-submarine warfare specialist as well as a Navy search and rescue team member. He joined the Army after graduating from Texas A&M in 1998. Prior to the Iraq war, he was an aide to an Army general. During his initial tour in Iraq, Russell served with the 4th Infantry Division in the Al Anbar Province. He joined the 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, KY, in March 2005. He was serving as a field artillery officer during his last tour in Iraq and was actively involved in military operations in the Baghdad area. He earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart during his military career.

The American people know the sacrifices Russell made to his country and his service will not be in vain. I am proud to honor Captain Russell's service to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO PFC. KRISTIAN
MENCHACA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Pfc. Kristian Menchaca, of the 101st Airborne of the United States Army, who was kidnapped and murdered by Iraqi insurgents on June 16th in Yusufiyah, Iraq.

Army Pfc. Kristian Menchaca was born on May 29th, 1983, in Houston, TX, and moved to Brownsville with his mother, Maria Guadalupe Vasquez, when he was a young boy. He attended Gary Job Corps center in San Marcos, TX, where he completed the correctional officers training program in six months and earned a certificate. He married his wife, Christina, three weeks before he joined the United States Army with the goal of using his military experience to become a Border Patrol agent. Pfc. Menchaca will be forever remembered for his service in protecting the freedoms and ideals of our country and I extend my condolences to his family, and to his wife, Christina.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the service of Pfc. Kristian Menchaca in the United States Army.

HONORING JACKIE DOLLAR HARRISON, DIRECTOR OF CHILD START, INC.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Jackie Dollar Harrison on the occasion of her retirement as Director of Child Start, Inc., a Head Start program for Napa and Solano counties. Over the last 25 years, Jackie Harrison's commitment to broadening service and reaching out to communities has developed the program into one of the most respected early childhood educational programs in the country.

Mrs. Harrison was born in St. Louis, MO, but grew up in Los Angeles, where she

earned a Bachelors degree from Mt. Saint Mary's College and then her Masters from the University of Southern California. The Watts riots in 1965 devastated chronically impoverished areas in southern Los Angeles; these riots were blamed on a lack of education and opportunity. Mrs. Harrison's first job in a long career of serving the under-served was as a pre-school teacher and curriculum specialist in the areas most impacted by rioting. Her work with marginalized and under-represented groups continued as a special education teacher serving children with autism and other learning disabilities in central Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, when Jackie Harrison arrived in the Napa Valley to direct the child care program, things began to change. The development of a Head Start program, new pre- and post-natal care efforts, and expansion into Solano County were direct results of Jackie's aggressive leadership. In 2000, Jackie led the innovative conversion of Napa-Solano Head Start into an independent non-profit corporation, which now operates as a nationally recognized model for others to follow. Jackie has emphasized kids' education not only through the programs, but has worked with parents and other community organizations to ensure that learning continues in the home.

Mrs. Harrison once said, "Anything about me, I want to be about the program." Mr. Speaker, by that measure, 2005 was an extraordinarily good year. Child Start, Inc. was recognized as one of the 40 top programs of its kind in the nation, it was the "Distinguished Program" recipient for California, it received a national "Program of Achievement Award", and Jackie herself was recognized with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the National Head Start foundation. These testimonials to the success of her program are a well-deserved acknowledgement of Jackie's vision in transforming children's education and opportunities in the Napa Valley.

Mrs. Harrison has been an active leader for the Napa Valley and the State of California, sitting on boards and helping direct the development of organizations that support the welfare of those whose voices are so often drowned out in our society.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Jackie Dollar Harrison for her remarkable achievements in a career distinguished by visionary and aggressive leadership for the welfare of our nation's children.

TRIBUTE TO THE D.J. JACOBETTI
HOME FOR VETERANS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an institution in my district that serves those who have served the rest of us. The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, MI, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary Rededication next month. My district is home to more veterans than any other Congressional District in Michigan. As such, the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans has been indispensable to many of my constituents.

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans was rededicated in 1981 and was named after Dominic J. Jacobetti, the longstanding Chair of

the Michigan House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. Representative Jacobetti was widely acknowledged as an effective advocate for veterans and for all of northern Michigan.

Before this important facility was established in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.), the only places for a U.P. veteran to go for long-term care were Michigan's Lower Peninsula or Wisconsin. Only after veterans organizations in the Upper Peninsula advocated for and requested this facility did the state of Michigan, with help from the Federal Government, establish the Jacobetti Home for Veterans. With the establishment of the Jacobetti Home for Veterans, Michigan became one of the first states to have two full-service, long-term care facilities for veterans.

It is important to note that the Jacobetti Home prides itself on truly being a home, not just a long-term care facility. The fact that the Jacobetti Home refers to its residents as "members" reflects the philosophy that has guided the Jacobetti Home over the last 25 years. The staff of the Jacobetti Home does not refer to residents as "patients" or "guests," but as "members," a title that underscores that residents of the Jacobetti Home for Veterans truly belong to a larger U.P. community.

The Jacobetti Home provides a ceramic shop, chapel, puzzle room and a solarium. The staff and veteran volunteers of the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans provide members with outings and classes almost daily. With the help of volunteers, watercolor, woodworking, and sewing classes are offered as are shopping trips, picnics, and a host of other activities.

As of May of this year, the Jacobetti Home for Veterans had served 1,950 members. This impressive number is a glowing testament to the hard work and dedication of the Jacobetti staff who have been tireless in their efforts to serve Upper Peninsula veterans.

Dr. James Heron deserves enormous credit for leading the Jacobetti Home for nearly two decades in a dual capacity as both Director and Medical Administrator. Brad Slagle, the Director of the facility since August of 2005, deserves our support as he leads the organization into the future.

As the 25th anniversary of the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans draws near, I would also like to salute the great number of individuals who volunteer thousands of hours each year to keep the Jacobetti Home for Veterans running. Almost every year, I attend the Jacobetti Home for Veterans' annual volunteer appreciation banquet to recognize the countless hours volunteers at the Jacobetti Home give to this veterans facility. I am pleased to note the roster of volunteers grows every year. Only a few years ago, area citizens contributed 10,000 volunteer hours per year to the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. Today, volunteer hours have increased to approximately 14,000 hours per year.

Volunteers help with the annual Jacobetti trip to the U.P. State Fair, as well as dinner nights and fishing trips. Volunteers put on Christmas parties, New Year's parties, Vegas nights and bingo. The Jacobetti woodshop is run by volunteers. Volunteers are also critical to the fundraisers that keep the Jacobetti Home operational. So, as all of the Upper Peninsula prepares to celebrate this 25th Anniversary, I tip my hat to the many volunteers

who contribute so much personal time to make the Jacobetti Home such a special place for our veterans to live.

These values of volunteerism, community and a responsibility to those who have sacrificed for our country are just a few of the things that make the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans special. Mr. Speaker, as we honor our brave fighting men and women serving abroad in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is important that we not forget them when they return home. In that spirit, for 25 years now, the Jacobetti facility has truly been a home for those who have served our country. Given the unique spirit of volunteerism and community service exhibited by the staff and volunteers of the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, I know we can expect the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans to be serving today's soldiers, when they are tomorrow's veterans, 25 years from now.

Mr. Speaker, I close by asking that you and the U.S. House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, a facility that truly serves those who have served all of us. In this time of conflict, it is more vital than ever that we retain those values of volunteerism, community and responsibility—values that the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans truly exemplifies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SCOTT
SULLIVAN AND JOELLE JARVIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Sullivan and Joelle Jarvis for their unparalleled commitment to serving others. Sullivan and Jarvis founded the Corps of Compassion, a grass roots organization that is helping families in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The organization is founded on the belief of people helping people, and making a difference right now.

Scott and Joelle founded the Corps of Compassion after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated portions of the Gulf Coast. Their efforts to reach out and assist thousands of displaced Americans from these tragic events have inspired so many to help their fellow citizens. Since the hurricanes, the organization and its volunteers have provided numerous resources and services. For example, the Corps of Compassion has coordinated and sent one dozen tractor trailers to Louisiana. These trailers were filled with food, baby products, medical supplies, paper goods, clothing, water and furniture for the hurricane victims. The organization in conjunction with Feed the Relief helped and funded almost 10,000 hot meals for first responders in New Orleans.

This incredible organization has also raised close to \$400,000 in monetary donations for emergency assistance and collected over \$1,000,000 in goods and donated services for disaster victims. As a result of their ongoing efforts, the group was named by the Las Vegas Review Journal as the "Best Community Organization of 2006". In addition to donating goods to people, Corps of Compassion has helped many families through case management by connecting them with legal information, tax help and informing them of the aid for which they qualify.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Scott Sullivan and Joelle Jarvis. Their work with Corps of Compassion has enriched countless lives thrown into turmoil following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I applaud them for their service and wish them the best with their continued mission.

A BLUEPRINT FOR NASA?

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I made the attached statement in the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Science Committee, regarding the National Academy of Science's Decadal Plan for Aeronautics on July 18, 2006.

Thank you Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member Udall, and members of this subcommittee for the opportunity to speak today about aeronautics. Under your leadership, this Congress has been tremendously supportive of aeronautics and I am grateful for that. I am also grateful to my colleague, Representative JoAnn Davis who has fought for strong aeronautics programs.

NASA's role in aeronautics is fundamental. Its research is important because NASA is able to develop long term, high-risk enabling technologies that the private sector is unwilling to perform because they are too risky or too expensive. In fact, this has historically been the role of government-sponsored research. This is true not only with aeronautics but also with pharmaceutical research, defense research, energy research, and environmental research.

When the government sponsored basic research yields information that could lead to a service or product with profit potential, the private sector transitions from research to development in order to bring it to market. While it is not always as simple as this, it is clear that where there is no basic research, there can be no development. This research has resulted in monumental innovations that affect our daily lives. Its contributions are especially significant in the areas of national security, environmental protection, and airline safety.

NASA's aeronautics programs also contribute substantially to the nation's economy. The NASA Glenn Research Center in Brook Park, Ohio, for example, is a cornerstone of the state's fragile economy and a stronghold of aeronautics research. In FY04, the economic output of NASA Glenn alone was 1.2 billion dollars per year. It was responsible for over 10,000 jobs and household earnings amounted to 568 million dollars.

Civil aeronautics is also the major contributor to this sector's positive balance of trade, contributing \$29 billion in 2005 alone. Aeronautics contributes to a stronger economy by lowering the cost of transportation, enabling a new generation of service based industries like e-commerce to flourish by performing the research that leads to inexpensive and reliable flights.

These are only a few of the reasons that the proposed cuts to aeronautics are so pernicious. Many of the recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) are already headed down the path of irrelevancy because we simply won't be able to pay for them. We will be feeling the effects of the proposed cuts—about 25% in FY07 alone—immediately in terms of economic jolts and then in the long term from the loss of innovation. In addition, the Administration's

projected further decline of aeronautics research in the out years erodes our workforce by sending a clear signal that funding in the long term is unstable at best, a concern echoed by the NAS reports. Our NASA workforce is the reason for our aeronautics dominance. It is that simple. But the cuts are already causing us to struggle against rising expertise in countries like China as well as an aging scientific and technical workforce at NASA.

This subcommittee and this Congress have spoken unequivocally in the past few years on this issue by keeping aeronautics strong in NASA authorization and appropriations bills. Yet the NASA budget requests have not changed. We are still underfunding the Vision for Space Exploration, forcing the agency to take money from smaller programs like aeronautics, the first A in NASA. In the process, we run the risk of taking away one of NASA's great strengths—diversity. If NASA becomes a one trick pony focused almost exclusively on space exploration, NASA as a whole is vulnerable to political wind shifts.

Our priority should be to correct this. Earlier this year, I attempted to offer a bipartisan amendment to increase funding for aeronautics in the Budget Resolution by \$179 million dollars, which would have left funding flat for FY07. But it was blocked by the Rules Committee. However, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported a bill last week that adds 1 billion dollars to cover the emergency costs associated with the loss of space shuttle Columbia. That would free up money for Aeronautics. It also included a ban on involuntary reductions in force, protecting the most valuable part of NASA, its world-class workforce. The House should support these provisions in conference.

In the long term, my hope is that this subcommittee will continue to defend aeronautics at NASA. I will most certainly do what I can to help.

HONORING OUR LADY OF VICTORY
PARISH AND 100 YEARS OF COM-
MUNITY SERVICE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished history of the Our Lady of Victory Parish on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Over the last century, Our Lady of Victory has provided spiritual guidance and quality education to generations of families throughout the Jefferson Park and Portage Park communities on the north side of the City of Chicago.

Our Lady of Victory was originally established on September 10, 1906 as a mission of the Saint Edward's Parish. Reverend Martin M. Lennartz served as this Catholic community's inaugural Pastor. Its first Eucharistic celebrations were held in an unassuming hall located at the corner of Milwaukee and Lawrence Avenues.

It was not until 1907, and the community efforts of Elizabeth Massmann, that the congregation was renamed, "Our Lady of Victory," after her memory and the name of her childhood church located in the state of Ohio.

The cornerstone of Our Lady of Victory's current location was laid on May 22, 1910. The three story structure located at 4444

North Laramie Avenue is now but one of the parish's many buildings.

Today, Our Lady of Victory serves approximately two hundred elementary school aged students. It has served over 3,000 families throughout the Chicagoland area in its one hundred year history.

And on October 8, 2006, parishioners and distinguished leaders of our community will come together to celebrate this momentous anniversary. The Gala Centennial Dinner will take place at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the north side of Chicago and the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I wish to recognize the Our Lady of Victory Parish and its Centennial celebration. I wish all the best for its clergy, for its families, and for its success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO DOUG DASH

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Dash, a man who has served his community and his country for nearly 30 years.

Doug is a graduate of West Chester State College. He was a teacher in Pennsauken, NJ and is the proud grandfather of a beautiful four and a half year old girl. During his time serving his community as a letter carrier, Doug has also been the Congressional Liaison for the Cherry Hill Postal Service. Mr. Dash began serving his community as a postal employee after he had already served his country in the armed forces for two years, receiving a Purple Heart after one year in Vietnam. Doug has been serving Cherry Hill and the First Congressional District of New Jersey since 1979.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Doug Dash today for all that he has done for The First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country. Doug's life of service is worthy of admiration, and in addition to being a constituent and colleague, I am proud to call Doug Dash a friend.

HONORING LEWIS EDWARD
JORDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of Lewis Edward Jordan. In a time and place when it was a rarity for an African American to operate a business, Lewis broke boundaries in the world of business. He used his acquired wealth to help lift the community as a whole and to instill the same optimism in others that drove him to accomplish so much. He passed away on June 20, 2006.

Lewis was born on September 7, 1914 in Oakville, Maryland. Lewis faced tremendous adversity as a child and teenager, living in southern Maryland after slavery with his

grandparents, who were slaves themselves. As a child he had very little money, and he only received an eighth grade education because the county where he lived, Saint Mary's County, had no high school for African Americans.

As a young adult, Lewis moved to Washington, D.C. He married Catherine Frederick in 1936 and fathered three children, Frederick, Andre, and Monica. It was in Washington, D.C. that his great creativity and vision would help him find success in his various entrepreneurial ventures. He was successful in many different businesses, including a taxicab company, a coal distribution company, mobile markets that served urban communities, a bar and restaurant, and eventually a trucking company. Lewis had the bravery to start these companies at a time in our nation's history when, unfortunately, many thought that a man like Lewis should only work for these companies rather than be the man at the helm, and his courage deserves recognition.

Lewis received many accolades for his work during and after his life. For his work on the decoration of the Blair House, he received a personal commendation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In addition, as a testament to his business skill, his trucking company was awarded the contracts for work on the Sam Rayburn Congressional Building as well as many other important Washington D.C. structures. Also, he received a tacit compliment from the business community when his "mobile market" concept for serving groceries to underserved neighborhoods was replicated by many.

Even when engaging in business, Lewis was socially conscious and sought to do business in a humane way. His mobile market business bloomed into all different sorts of philanthropic works. He became known for delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to families of need in northeast Washington, D.C., and in 1996 he started the Frederick and Jordan Families Fund. The fund is administered by the San Francisco Foundation, and focuses specifically on helping African American communities in areas of homelessness, at-risk youth, and food programs.

In his golden years, Lewis stayed busy, serving as chairman of the Frederick and Jordan Families Fund and writing his own book, *From Slave Days to Present Days, the Roots of the Jordan Family*, which is considered to be one of the few works portraying the lives of African Americans in Maryland after slavery.

In addition to his business and philanthropic efforts, Lewis was a loving father. His love and care are reflected in the success of his children. Andre Jordan became the highest-ranking African American federal law enforcement official in the United States; Frederick started a civil engineering and construction management firm, which was the first African American owned firm of that sort on the West Coast; and Monica is the Assistant General Counsel of a federal agency.

For his vision in business, his giving spirit, and his love of family and others, I am humbled to honor Lewis Edward Jordan. On behalf of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I am proud to add my voice to the countless others who have united in thanks, respect, and praise for this pioneering individual, Lewis Edward Jordan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAM AND
LOIS RUVOLO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friends Sam and Lois Ruvolo as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sam and Lois met in Cleveland, Ohio, the city they were both born and raised. After a chance meeting at the local community center, where Lois was a secretary, they were married six months later at the Holy Name Church on August 11, 1956.

After serving in the United States Army from 1950–1952, Sam taught school and coached football at the high school, college, and pro levels for 32 years. In 1988, Sam and Lois both decided to retire. They sold their residence in California and traveled the United States, Canada, and Mexico in their motor home, finally settling in Henderson, Nevada in 1991 at the insistence of Sam's brother Pat.

Sam is active with the Knights of Columbus, and the American Legion, serving as Commander of Post 40 in Henderson, State Commander of Nevada, and most recently as the Alternate National Executive Committee member. He has also been reappointed to serve on the Governor's Committee of the Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery.

Lois is active with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, volunteers at the St. Viator Church, and is an auxiliary member of the American Legion's Unit 40.

Of all their accomplishments, Sam and Lois are most proud of their four children, Margaret Mary Janshen, Joseph Robert, Thomas Joseph, and John Salvatore. They also love and enjoy their seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize two wonderful people who I have known for many years on their coming wedding anniversary and also for their service to the community of Southern Nevada. I wish them many more joyful years of marriage.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE DRUG, LUCENTIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter to the Director of the National Eye Institute, inquiring about the role of publicly funded research in the development of the drug on July 12, 2005.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2006.

Dr. PAUL A. SIEVING, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

DEAR DR. SIEVING: I write to request your assistance in understanding NIH's contribution to research and development of the drug, Lucentis. According to your website, "the NEI alone has spent nearly \$95 million and has sponsored more than 300 research studies that have investigated neovascularization in the eye." The studies

have "discovered specific biological pathways and proteins that trigger the growth of new blood vessels." Specifically, a protein called vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) was found to be "important in the growth of new blood vessels in retinal degenerative diseases such as advanced AMD. The abnormal blood vessels leak blood and fluid, causing severe vision loss." Subsequently, "several pharmaceutical companies began developing anti-VEGF therapies."

Please provide a detailed overview of the research NIH has funded in this area. Please also indicate whether NIH supported any of the research that led to the Lucentis patents, or any of the research that was undertaken by Genentech or partners, including support for clinical testing, related to Lucentis. The intent is not to be able to review the findings of each of the relevant studies. Rather, it is to understand the role and contribution of NIH in the development of this important product.

Thank you for your assistance and your time.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING BRADLEY BAILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradley Bailey of Kansas City, Missouri. Over the past few months, Brad has served as my office intern. In aiding the day to day operations of the office, he has worked with enthusiasm and dedication. His efforts to represent my office have been commended by both my staff and our constituents.

As a student at Central Missouri State University, Brad has been pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice and came to Washington, DC, this summer after interning in my Liberty District office in 2005. His ambition and interest in politics and government have made him a welcome addition to my office. He has a true commitment to public service and his enthusiasm in helping the people of the 6th District is something to be admired.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Bradley Bailey. He has been great to have in the office and his efforts are much appreciated. I have no doubt that his future ambitions to work in Federal Law Enforcement will be fulfilled. He will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS,
UPON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Trinity Episcopal Church of Lawrence, Kansas, which on Au-

gust 20th will celebrate its 150th year of serving Kansans attending the University of Kansas as well as residents of Lawrence.

Lawrence has a long and vibrant history of religious diversity, dating back to its founding prior to the Civil War by immigrants who sought to establish Kansas as a state where slavery was prohibited. I am pleased to have this opportunity to place into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article originally published in the Lawrence Journal-World which details the history of several of Lawrence's original congregations, including Trinity Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to share this history with the House and I commend the members of Trinity Episcopal Church as they prepare to celebrate 150 years of service to the people of Lawrence and the University of Kansas.

[From the Lawrence Journal-World, Sept. 19, 2004]

CITY CHURCHES TRACE ROOTS TO PIONEER
DAYS

(By Jim Baker)

Lawrence was born from the reaction between pro-slavery forces and abolitionists fighting for control over the future of the Kansas Territory—and the city's early churches were the catalyst.

The struggles of the abolitionists, in Lawrence's opening decades, set the course for many congregations that went on to flourish in the ensuing 150 years.

In 1854, the New England Emigrant Aid Company sent a hardy band of 29 men to found a city in the Kansas Territory, hoping to settle the land with as many abolitionists as possible. The hope was that when the territory eventually achieved statehood, Kansas would be a free state.

Among the men recruited by Amos Lawrence, a wealthy merchant based in Boston, were Unitarians, Methodists and Congregationalists. The most prominent Unitarian among them was Charles Robinson, who would become the first governor of Kansas.

It took the group about two weeks to reach a site here, and then its members set up housing in order to establish a beachhead for abolitionists.

The Unitarian Church—known as the Unitarian Society in Lawrence—was founded in 1856, the year that a stone church was built at what is now Ninth and Ohio streets. The church also was used by the Congregationalists and Methodists. The first minister was the Rev. Ephraim Nute.

"Certainly in the early years, Unitarians were instrumental in building the schools, fostering abolitionism, providing aid for the Underground Railroad and settlers of the abolitionist persuasion. The Unitarian Church was used as a hospital in the aftermath of Quantrill's Raid (Aug. 21, 1863)," said Carol Huettner, administrator of the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, 1263 N. 1100 Road.

"I think that the idea of tolerance, inclusion and basic fairness is part and parcel of the mindset of Lawrence, and I believe that comes in a straight, unbroken line from the first Unitarian settlers here. Lawrence would not have been founded were it not for Unitarians."

IMPRESSIVE HERITAGE

The history of three of Lawrence's oldest churches also is rooted in the epic clash between those who wanted Kansas to be a slave state and those who were "free-staters."

The founders of Plymouth Congregational Church, 925 Vt., came to Kansas to swell the ranks of settlers opposed to slavery. They

were among the group sent out by the New England Emigrant Aid Company.

"They were abolitionists, and they came to Lawrence in 1854. Lawrence was a frontier town, and the only place where they could meet was a building made out of hay, with a thatched roof. That's where the church started," said the Rev. Peter Luckey, Plymouth's senior pastor.

Plymouth was founded Oct. 15, 1854. The church, like the city itself, is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year.

Plymouth's historic sanctuary, designed by noted Kansas architect John G. Haskell, was built in 1870—only 7 years after Quantrill's Raid on the city.

"The pastor at the time was Richard Cordley (the church's second pastor, who came in 1857), and he was a very strong, abolitionist preacher. It can be argued that part of what brought William Quantrill to Lawrence is they were intent on getting him. They actually came to his house," Luckey said.

Plymouth, which today has 1,200 members, has been at the same location since 1870.

First Baptist Church, 1330 Kasold Drive, is a year younger than Plymouth—it was founded in June 1855 and will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year—and traces its roots back to the conflict between pro-slavery and abolitionist forces.

"We had seven founding members in 1855. One of them was actually murdered in Quantrill's Raid, though the (original) church at Eighth and Kentucky wasn't harmed," says the Rev. Marcus McFaul, First Baptist's senior pastor, and the 30th full-time pastor in the church's history.

"Lawrence, Kansas, and the Christian experience in this town in many ways does reflect what I would call classic, liberal Christianity. Our founders really did embrace the dignity and worth of all people. That's a pretty significant thing in 1855 on the frontier, when everybody thought Kansas was going to be like Missouri, a slave state."

First Baptist's original sponsoring denominational group came from Boston, home to many abolitionists, and this influenced the course the congregation was to take.

McFaul said he was conscious of his church's history and legacy.

"It's almost overwhelming, because you're made very much aware that you stand on the shoulders of all those pastors who went before you."

Another Lawrence congregation that was directly affected by the battle over slavery is Trinity Episcopal Church, 1011 Vt., founded in 1857.

"All of our parish records were burned in Quantrill's Raid. Everything was burned. We lost all the documents, baptism certificates, all of that was burned. They had to start again," said the Rev. Jonathon Jensen, who is the 19th rector in the church's history.

Trinity Episcopal has been in downtown Lawrence nearly as long as the city itself has existed. The church was formed, and the present lot of Vermont Street was purchased, in 1857.

The church's first building was consecrated and opened for service July 29, 1859. The present building in the Gothic Revival style was begun in 1870 and completed in 1873.

Jensen is proud of Trinity Episcopal's long history, and he often reflects on the church's founders and past rectors.

"I feel a connection with all those who've gone before us, and it reminds me of all of those who will come after us. It feels much larger than myself," he said.

RICH HISTORY

Plymouth is not the only Lawrence church celebrating a sesquicentennial anniversary this year. So is First United Methodist Church, 946 Vt.

"We consider our history as beginning with the arrival of the Rev. William Goode and the Rev. James Griffing to Lawrence on Nov. 7, 1854. They held revival services here in November and December of 1854. The church charter was actually in 1855, but we have always celebrated our history as starting in 1854," said Jerry Niebaum, co-chairman of First United Methodist's sesquicentennial committee.

Goode was appointed to the Kansas-Nebraska district of the Methodist Church. Griffing was a circuit rider, traveling between communities from Lawrence to near Junction City. He was a preacher on horseback, who rode the countryside and preached the Gospel throughout the territory.

"Our first framed church was built in 1858 where the Southwestern Bell tower is downtown. If you look at the Harper's Bazaar (magazine) drawing of Quantrill's Raid, you see the Methodist church right in the center of the destruction. It was not damaged at all, and it was used as a morgue for the victims of the raid. They moved out the pews to make room for the bodies," Niebaum said.

A brick church was built in 1865 where the Masonic Temple now stands, 1001 Mass., and it was used until 1891, when the congregation moved into its present stone structure at 946 Vt.

First United Methodist has now been in the same downtown church for 113 years.

"History doesn't excite a lot of people, but yes, there are many here who understand the rich history that we have," Niebaum said.

SENSE OF BELONGING

For black settlers who migrated to Lawrence in the city's early years, the churches they formed offered much more than simply a place to worship.

They offered a safe haven for the expression of culture, opportunities for leadership and education, as well as a place for social, political and, later, civil rights activities.

"African-American churches are important in every community, especially if you go back in history. There was a time when blacks didn't have much of a social role outside the church. They needed some place of stability, some place that they felt was their own," said the Rev. William Dulin, pastor of Calvary Church of God in Christ, 646 Ala.

"If it hadn't been for the black churches that offered a feeling that they belonged, blacks who came to this area probably wouldn't have stayed here. Churches gave them a sense of spiritual guidance, as well as some roots. The city might have been different today if we hadn't had some of those churches."

The earliest black churches in Lawrence that have maintained continuous congregations—despite name changes and physical relocations—date back almost to the founding of the city itself.

St. Luke AME Church, 900 N.Y., and Ninth Street Baptist Church, 847 Ohio, were both founded in 1862.

Other black congregations founded in the city's early years are: St. James AME Church, North Seventh and Maple streets, established in 1865; First Regular Missionary Baptist Church (originally located at 416 Lincoln), founded in 1868; and Second Christian Church, 1245 Conn., (it has also changed locations), organized in 1897.

The Rev. Reginald Bachus, as pastor of First Regular Missionary Baptist Church, 1646 Vt., is the leader of a congregation with a venerable history. The church will celebrate its 136th anniversary in October.

He reflected on the meaning of churches to Lawrence's black residents, particularly during a time when they were largely shunned by the city's whites.

"In the life of the African-American community, especially 150 years ago, the church

was really the only place that they could feel comfortable, express themselves and have a sense of belonging in society. Many times, people could exercise their talents and leadership abilities, which they couldn't do in a secular setting," Bachus said.

Alice Fowler, historian of First Regular Missionary Baptist Church as well as a member of the congregation for the past 50 years, agreed with her pastor's assessment.

"The (black) church was the social and political outlet, the congregating place of African-Americans. It was a church, a school and a way to inform people of events that were going on in the community," she said.

"There was very large participation in events for the church, such as vacation Bible school and church picnics. There weren't a lot of activities that African-Americans could take part in (in the wider community). So churches provided their own resources for African-Americans during the (city's) early years."

IN HONOR OF CARL POHLHAMMER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of Carl Pohlhammer, one of the pillars of my California Central Coast district. Carl is one of those Americans who embodies the meaning of the word citizenship; who works from humble circumstances to strengthen the quality of our democracy. I am privileged to be able to call Carl a friend.

Carl and I both share a common point of personal history having mothers who both chose the San Francisco Bay Area as our port of entry into the world. And while my parents had the good sense to move our family to the Monterey Peninsula in the late 1940s, Carl left it to the U.S. Navy to decide.

In 1963, Carl arrived at the Naval Postgraduate School as a Navy Lieutenant and Assistant Professor where he taught political science. That same year, Carl also began teaching political science down the road at Monterey Peninsula College, the Monterey Peninsula's community college. Carl eventually left the Navy, but has continued to teach to this day, despite his nominal retirement in 1995.

Prior to arriving in Monterey, Carl graduated cum laude from San Jose State University followed by the University of California at Berkeley. He married Anita Arellano, his college sweetheart, in 1954, and then spent a year in France, courtesy of the U.S. Army.

Since arriving on the Monterey Peninsula, Carl has been active in numerous community campaigns and organizations. Perhaps his most infamous effort was to chair the 1968 'bourbon renewal' campaign to convince his adopted hometown of Pacific Grove to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages. Always active Democrats, Carl and Anita attended both of the Clinton inaugurals. Anita was a delegate to the 1984 Democratic Convention in San Francisco. Carl has been a member of the Monterey County Democratic Central Committee since 1996, and was Chair from 2001 to just this year.

Mr. Speaker, every member of the House knows from their own district the crucially important role that civically involved volunteers play in the life of their own communities. Our

democracy depends on them. Carl is one of those people who deserve the Nation's gratitude for his public service as a community activist.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SGT.
ROBERT J. CHIOMENTO

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man, Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento. He died fighting the Taliban on July 17, 2006 in Khwaya Ahmad, Afghanistan, when his patrol encountered enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. Staff Sgt. Chiomento was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Every soldier that passes away has a story behind him, and has a family. The news of Staff Sgt. Chiomento's death was relayed to me by his cousin, Thomas Chiomento, my good friend and constituent. Thom remembers his hero cousin as a third-generation who has fought in combat. Their grandfather served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and his father served in Vietnam. We must not forget the individual stories of these soldiers who have served our country with courage and honor. Staff Sgt. Chiomento was a brave and gifted soldier who was awarded the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantrymen's Badge. He was the kind of soldier that boosted our pride in being an American.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he stood for. Our pride in Robert shall certainly live on—his life, his courage, his sacrifice and strength of character. The example of his citizenship and dedication to duty will be his enduring legacy. We will not forget his sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, life and service of Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento—"an American hero," and in sending our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Staci, his two daughters, Ambre and Syleste, his entire family, his friends, and community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROL
WATSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Watson for her service in the United States Marine Corps and subsequent volunteer work.

Carol enlisted in the Marine Corps immediately after graduating high school in 1952. After completing boot camp at Parris Island,

South Carolina and Motor Transport School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, she was assigned to Washington, DC as a staff car driver. Following her honorable discharge, Carol attended college under the GI Bill and subsequently entered the U.S. Postal Service. While with the Postal Service, Carol's hard work and dedication was recognized as she was promoted to Manager and ultimately Post Master.

Upon retiring from government service in 1992, Carol began a new career in volunteerism. After volunteering for 8 years at the Long Beach California Memorial Hospital and Teaching 55/Alive for AARP, she moved to Las Vegas and continued her work. Carol joined the Women Marine Association and the Women Veterans of Nevada. Her strong desire to assist her fellow veterans also prompted her to join the Veterans Administration (VA) as a Deputy Representative and volunteer at the VA Women's Clinic.

Earlier this year, Carol became the President of the local Sagebrush Chapter of the Women Marine Association and the Area Director for Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada. Some of her duties include recruiting new members nationwide as well as interacting with other volunteer groups. She is also working on fundraisers for the WMA to send packages to Iraq and for veterans here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Carol Watson. Her service to the people of the United States is to be applauded and her subsequent volunteerism is commendable. I thank her for her efforts and wish her the best in future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY STAFF SGT.
ERIC CABAN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On July 19, 2006, the Department of Defense declared that Army Staff Sergeant Eric Caban (United States Army, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces) died from injuries that he suffered the previous day during a combat reconnaissance patrol in Southern Afghanistan.

A native of Manhattan, NY, Caban moved to Fort Worth with his family when he was 3 years old. A year after graduating from Fort Worth Paschal High School in 1997, Caban enlisted in the Army. His first assignment was with the 75th Ranger Regiment, where he served in a sniper platoon and was a team leader. His first deployment to Afghanistan occurred in October 2001. In that assignment, Caban participated as an airborne ranger who did a combat jump in what is described as an "operation that took the strategically important Kandahar Airfield."

Following his assignment in Afghanistan, Caban left the Army in 2002 to attend the University of Texas at Arlington. However, after a year in college, Caban decided his love was the military and he re-enlisted in 2004. Initially, he was a sniper instructor. He then enrolled in the Special Forces Qualifications Course and in March 2006, became a sergeant in the Special Forces—better known as the Green Berets—and returned to Afghanistan. During his

career he earned the Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals and, posthumously, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

His family and friends describe Caban as someone who was committed to defending his country and to battling alongside his fellow soldiers. It is these qualities of incredible courage, strength, and pride in serving his country that we see in young heroes like Eric Caban that makes us appreciate the freedoms we enjoy here at home.

I am proud to honor Sergeant Caban's service to the United States of America and to defending freedom around the world. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO 7TH ANNUAL SUPPLY
OUR STUDENTS CONCERT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 7TH Annual Supply Our Students Concert, which "will be held on August 2, 2006, in Laredo, Texas.

I commend Judge Danny Valdez, the lead organizer of the Supply Our Students (S.O.S.) Concert for making it one of the most successful fundraising initiatives in providing school supplies to the neediest students in the City of Laredo. He has helped make this concert possible for the past 7 years, and eased the worries of many parents about providing school supplies for the coming school year.

The children we educate today are our future, and we must endeavor to make sure that they are on the path to success by providing them the tools they need in order to accomplish their educational goals. I am proud of the support the community has shown for the Supply Our Students Concert and the involvement of the music industry in making this a successful venture.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the support of the community for the Supply Our Students Concert on August 2, 2006.

RECOGNIZING THAT ON SEP-
TEMBER 11TH AMERICANS
SHOULD HONOR OUR FIRST CALL
RESPONDERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the solemn purpose of recognizing the heroic sacrifices and ongoing efforts of America's First Call Responders.

Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001 claimed the lives of hundreds of fire fighters, law enforcement officers and Emergency Medical Services personnel. These First Call Responders have a long history of honorable and selfless service to the United States. This service has continued at a high standard, and these First Call Responders should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, these unsung heroes deserve our recognition for their commitment and personal sacrifice. Their efforts are vital to the peace and well-being of all humanity.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the sacrifices of America's First Call Responders, and I call on our fellow citizens to join in remembering them this September 11th.

TRIBUTE TO SAINT PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a northern Michigan treasure that has enjoyed a rich legacy of community service and outreach.

Next month, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Marquette, Michigan will celebrate its 150th anniversary. For a century and a half, this local landmark has served as a place of worship for the residents of Marquette and the surrounding communities. The story of St. Paul's, in many ways, parallels the story of Marquette. As the Marquette community grew, so too did St. Paul's Episcopal Church, serving the community's spiritual needs and many of its material needs.

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, or simply St. Paul's as locals call it, can be traced back, in one form or another, to 1851, when a small group of some of the first settlers in Marquette, Michigan began holding services at various sites throughout Marquette. Some of these earliest services were held aboard the steamships *Planet* and *Napoleon* as they were anchored in Marquette's harbor.

In 1856, St. Paul's hired its first rector. The sponsor of the first rector, Charles Trowbridge, stipulated that the rector would hold services each week at Collinsville, a community of 300 people 3 miles north of Marquette. One of Marquette's other early residents, Peter King, took on the challenge of ensuring that the rector arrived in Collinsville each week. This weekly trek occasionally required travel by dog sled.

In August of 1856, St. Paul's Episcopal Church was incorporated into the City of Marquette. Work began on a wooden frame edifice at the location of the present church on Marquette's Ridge Street. Establishing a church in the frontier community of Marquette was a challenge, but the church was assisted by gifts from Episcopal churches in downstate Michigan as well as by gifts from other parishes as far away as New York and Boston.

By 1874, St. Paul's and Marquette were thriving and the church had outgrown its original small frame church. The original St. Paul's structure was purchased by German Lutherans and moved two blocks away. Construction then began on the present-day church. On Christmas, 1875, the new church held its inaugural services. Since that day, St. Paul's has remained a prominent feature of the Marquette community.

In 1907, St. Paul's conceived, financed and built the Guild Hall, a structure that many say was the first community building erected in Marquette. Built under the leadership of the Reverend Bates Burt, the Guild Hall provided

a meeting place for the people of Marquette. The Guild Hall housed a reading room, an assembly room, a stage and recreation facilities including a swimming pool, gymnasium, billiard tables and bowling alley. In the words of Reverend Burt, the Guild Hall was meant to "provide facilities where people could meet and work in a social way, a clubhouse for the Parish where it could do efficient work not once in seven days, but every day."

Today, St. Paul's Episcopal Church remains an important part of the fabric of the Marquette community. The church actively supports Habitat for Humanity and works to provide medical care for the uninsured through the Medical Care Access Coalition. The church operates the Camp New Day Upper Peninsula Program, which provides urban children of residents of the State's penal institutions with a recreational experience in Michigan's north woods. The church has reached out beyond its borders to provide support for at-risk children in places as far away as Honduras, Haiti and the Sudan and to provide an annual market for third world craftspeople.

Mr. Speaker, the spirit and philosophy of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is reflected in its motto: Gathered by Grace; Sent Forth to Serve. Since those early days aboard steamships in Marquette's harbor to its current location at Ridge Street, St. Paul's has lived by that motto, serving as a spiritual foundation and community anchor for the people of Marquette. As its members prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in celebrating the church's many contributions to the Marquette community and in paying tribute to the rich historical legacy of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, its members and many acts of faith.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAN HYDE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dan Hyde for his outstanding service to Southern Nevada by coordinating the City of Las Vegas Alternative Fuel Program, which received the 2006 National Innovation Award.

Dan was raised in San Diego, California. He attended and graduated from Clairemont High School in 1967. He then attended San Diego Mesa College; soon afterwards he transferred and continued his studies at San Diego State University. In 1993, while working as the Fleet Manager at the University of California San Diego, he took the Fleet Manager position with the City of Las Vegas. Dan has been the coordinator for the Las Vegas Regional Clean Cites Coalition (LVRCCC) since its inception in 1993, and has been the Executive Director of the LVRCCC since 2000.

The City of Las Vegas' Alternative Fuel Program has been a passion of Dan's since taking the Fleet Manager position. Due to Dan's efforts, the City of Las Vegas is emerging as a leader that has, and is developing an American fuels culture with compressed natural gas, biodiesel, and hydrogen power that is predominantly derived from domestically produced energy sources.

Dan is active in the community and serves on various committees including Chairman of the Regional Transportation Commission's Citizens Advisory Committee, mentor in the National School to Careers Program, the City of Henderson's Senior's Advisory Committee, the Clark County Air Quality Forum and Technical Advisory Sub-Committee, the City of Las Vegas' Air Quality Team, volunteering for the Radio Reading Service with KNPR-FM radio, and is a participant in the PAL Mentoring Program in which his labors resulted in three high school students becoming full time employees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dan Hyde on the floor of the House. I commend him for his contributions to the City of Las Vegas and thank him for his continued service to the residents of Southern Nevada.

ON WARNING MECHANICS WORKING ON BRAKES CONTAINING ASBESTOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter to the Secretary of OSHA, inquiring about the Asbestos-Automotive Brake and Clutch Repair Work Safety and Health Information Bulletin on July 12, 2005.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 10, 2006.

Mr. EDWIN G. FOULKE,
*Assistant Secretary, Occupation Safety and Health Administration,
U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.*

DEAR ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOULKE: In 2002, OSHA began work on Asbestos-Automotive Brake and Clutch Repair Work Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIB) regarding exposure to asbestos-containing brakes. The Bulletin was completed in 2005. OSHA and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) met to discuss the matter in August 2005, whereupon the draft SHIB was sent to Dan Crane of OSHA for technical review. Mr. Crane gave it a favorable review, agreeing that mechanics should be warned about the health risks of exposure. However, seven months later, the Baltimore Sun reported that OSHA was delaying issuing the SHIB.

When does OSHA intend to issue the SHIB? If the Sun's article is correct, what are the reasons for the delay? Was this decision made by OSHA or OMB? Please provide a copy of any meeting minutes and a list of attendees of the August 2005 meeting between OMB and OSHA. Please also provide any correspondence between OSHA and OMB regarding the SHIB during the time period beginning in 2002, extending to July 10, 2006. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

HONORING ENGINE COMPANY NO. 106 OF THE CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished history of Engine

Company No. 106 of the Chicago Fire Department on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Over the last century, the firefighters of Engine Company No. 106 have shown an enduring commitment to community service and have worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe.

Fire-related fatalities in Chicago are at a 25 year-low, thanks to the life saving efforts of Chicago's firefighters and community outreach efforts by firefighters to schools, senior centers and neighborhood associations. Chicago's citizens are now better informed about how to prevent and handle emergency situations, and they view their local firehouse as an important and valuable resource in the neighborhood.

I have visited Engine Company No. 106 many times. This company has always epitomized the exemplary values of honor and protection that the Chicago Fire Department and the Maltese Cross have become known to symbolize. All too often we take for granted the heroic efforts of these dedicated public servants.

Fire Marshal and Chief of Brigade, James Horan originally established Engine Company No. 106 on December 31, 1906. As a part of the Fourth Fire Battalion of Chicago, the original firehouse was located at 2754 North Fairfield Avenue, near the intersection of Diversey and Fairfield Avenues.

The original members of the company roster included Captain Alexander Kopeto, Lieutenant Thomas Mulcahy, Engineer Henry Clohecy, Assistant Engineer Thomas Walsh, Pipemen Frank Mashek, Thomas Cavanaugh, Frank McDermott, and Thomas Hogan, and Drivers John Murphy and Thomas McCarthy. Today, Captain Kenneth Soo of Engine No. 106 and Captain Steven Kierys of Truck No. 13 continue this tradition of excellent service for our community.

This year's Grand Gala celebrating Engine Company No. 106, Truck No. 13, and Ambulance No. 48 will take place at the current firehouse location at 3401 North Elston Avenue. This will be a wonderful event that will memorialize this important anniversary: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the north side of Chicago and the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I wish to recognize the past and current firefighters of Engine No. 106 for their dedication and commitment to service. Moreover, I wish all the best for the future firefighters of Engine No. 106 and their families.

A TRIBUTE TO CPO ANDREW W.
DOYLE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Cadet Andrew W. Doyle for his promotion to Chief Petty Officer of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. On May 14th, 2006, family and friends of CPO Doyle gathered on the Battleship *New Jersey* in Camden to celebrate this outstanding achievement.

During his more than three years of service, Andrew Doyle has exemplified what it is to be a leader. He has also demonstrated a deep patriotism that has propelled him to this elite

rank. Because of his dedication, ability, and significant contribution to the community, Andrew Doyle is truly an inspiration to U.S. Naval Sea Cadets everywhere, and to all citizens of this nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor CPO Andrew W. Doyle for his remarkable record of service and accomplishments. There is no doubt that CPO Doyle will be successful in whatever challenges he undertakes and will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all. I extend to him my heartfelt congratulations and I wish Chief Petty Officer Andrew W. Doyle the best of luck in his future.

HONORING CHARLOTTE QUANN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and community service of Charlotte Marie Peterson Quann, a courageous servant of the public good. A protector of battered women and children, an advocate for the poor, and a courageous woman in her personal life, Charlotte Quann always strove to lift up the disadvantaged and bring light to any situation with her great sense of humor. Her life is being celebrated following her passing on May 17, 2006.

Charlotte was born on December 5, 1934, the first of seven children. Charlotte grew up in Detroit and attended Detroit public schools, graduating from Northwestern High School at the young age of 16. Throughout her childhood, Charlotte was extremely precocious and motivated; she was active in the Urban League, YMCA speech and debate, ran for President of the school, and excelled academically. Unsurprisingly, her picture now sits in the Northwestern High School hall of fame.

Beyond her achievements, she also nurtured a sense of civic duty from a young age. Influenced by her father, a union organizer, she helped unionize Detroit's factory workers while still in high school. Because of her intelligence and political activism, she went to Washington and served as one of the youngest Congressional pages, working for Congressman JOHN CONYERS. Shortly thereafter, she attended Wayne State University.

Charlotte's energy and ambition continued, and she achieved great personal success. Charlotte became the first African American to work for Capital Airlines, which later became United Airlines, rising through the ranks of management. However, she was always cognizant of social and racial issues within the company. She became an important leader for African-Americans in the organization, serving as Secretary, Vice President, and eventually President of the United Airlines Black Professional Organization.

Beyond achieving professional success, she also sought personal success, and she worked to balance the different areas of her life. During this time, she started her family. After marrying Charles David Quann on June 7, 1958, she gave birth to three children, Steven, Warren, and Carla. All of her children have grown up to emulate Charlotte's compassion, generosity and community-mindedness. I have personally known Warren for many years, and have always held him in high re-

gard for his constant community advocacy and work for political change at the systemic level. He places the same high value on the well-being of others and of his community as his mother always did, and I am privileged to know and to have worked with someone as special as Warren.

In 1972, Charlotte transferred within United Airlines to San Francisco, which ultimately became one of the most important events in her life because all of the philanthropic work that she would do in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her passions in community service were wide ranging, but mostly she focused on underserved children, battered women, and impoverished families, and her record of charitable work is second to none. She served as the Chair of the Board for the Casa De Las Madres emergency residential shelter for battered women and children, for the Mary Elizabeth Inn residential shelter for battered women, for the Center Point drug treatment programs, and served on the board at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, becoming extremely involved there, with a particular focus on Glide's children's programs. She also grew involved with the ministry and represented Glide within the United Methodist Church and was an active member on the Commission on Race and Religion.

Charlotte was not only cherished by people for her service to the community, but also because her bright spirit served to lift up those around her. The good humor and optimism that Charlotte radiated could make any situation more bearable, and her love and desire to help others was cherished by all who knew her.

A champion of the underserved, a courageous citizen, and a loving mother and wife, Charlotte Quann, as her sister said, "lived well, loved much, and laughed often." On behalf of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I am proud to add my voice to the countless others who have united in appreciation of this outstanding individual, and I salute Charlotte Quann for her invaluable contributions to the San Francisco Bay Area, the United States, and to our world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DANIEL
EDMONDSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Edmondson for his outstanding volunteer work and being awarded the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Daniel, an eighth-grader at Silvestri Junior High School in Las Vegas, has been teaching Taekwondo karate classes to young children for the past eight years. Daniel started taking Taekwondo lessons when he was just six years old. As a young child, he was so taken with the sport that he wanted to share it with others.

In order to become a junior instructor, Daniel had to train for two years, log 350 hours of volunteer service at the Taekwondo studio, and pass both physical and written tests. Daniel now leads classes, mentors young students, and helps them prepare for tournament competitions. Over the last several years,

Daniel has taught more than 150 youths not only the physical techniques of Taekwondo, but also self-discipline, confidence, respect, and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Daniel Edmondson for his volunteer activities. His being recognized at the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is truly a great accomplishment. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best with his future endeavors.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Chairman, I believe there is great potential in the widespread adoption of health information technology. By expanding the use of health information technology, we can reduce medical errors, improve the quality of care and patient safety, enhance efficiency and significantly reduce health care costs.

However, the bill before us fails to make any progress toward greater adoption of health information technology.

H.R. 4157 fails to provide for the development or adoption of interoperability standards. It also fails to provide adequate funding to assist providers transitioning to an electronic medical records system, and it greatly weakens Medicare's fraud and abuse laws.

The RAND Corporation recently estimated that by implementing health information technology, we can save as much as \$162 billion per year. Unfortunately, H.R. 4157 accomplishes so little that we would fail to yield any of these potential savings.

The most troubling aspect of this bill is its failure to protect an individual's medical privacy.

Even the President of the United States, believes an individual's medical information should be protected. On January 27, 2005, the President stated, "I presume I'm like most Americans—I think my medical records should be private." And on May 22, 2006, the President stated, "Our goal, by the way, is for every American to have an electronic medical record. And—but, by the way, with a guarantee of privacy."

During the committee process, Mr. DOGGETT and I offered an amendment that would have strengthened privacy protections for individuals. Specifically, the amendment: (1) expressly recognized the right of an individual to privacy and security; (2) required individuals to consent to having their information shared; (3) allowed individuals to prohibit access to particularly sensitive information in their health record (i.e., HIV, mental health, genetic information); (4) required individuals to be notified if their health record has been breached, and (5) allowed individuals to obtain damages from an entity that wrongfully uses or discloses identifiable health information.

Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues did not share these goals and voted against these provisions on numerous occasions. Yesterday, we joined our colleagues from the Energy and Commerce Committee and offered a similar amendment again before the Rules Committee. The amendment was blocked there as well.

As we move forward on health information technology, it is absolutely essential that an individual's most personal and vulnerable information is protected. In a digital environment, HIPPA is just not enough.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly believe in the potential of health information technology. Unfortunately, I cannot support the legislation before us because it fails to truly make any progress in achieving that goal.

CONGRESS SHOULD UPDATE CREDIT UNION REGULATIONS AND IMPROVE RULES FOR CREDIT CARDS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the importance of the financial services industry—including both banks and credit unions—to our economy. I support and applaud the steps both have taken toward better services and improved products.

However, I think there's a need to change some of the rules involving credit cards and I also think we need to remember the need for diversity in the industry. That's why I am cosponsoring H.R. 2317, to update the regulation of credit unions, and have introduced a bill dealing with credit cards.

The last major changes to the Federal Credit Union Act were in 1998, and since then there has been time to identify unnecessary and outdated provisions and develop legislation that would make common sense improvements.

That is the background for H.R. 2317, the Credit Union Regulatory Improvements Act (or "CURIA"), introduced by our colleagues, Representatives ED ROYCE and PAUL E. KANJORSKI. It combines a series of regulatory enhancements that will allow credit unions to operate more effectively and efficiently. These changes can help improve productivity and efficiency in a competitive and dynamic marketplace, and will translate into better and lower-cost service to credit union members.

The current bill improves upon similar bipartisan legislation introduced in the 108th Congress, and its broad support is shown by the fact that it has no fewer than 121 cosponsors. That support reflects the reality that credit unions—with 87 million members nationwide and 1.5 million just in Colorado—provide choice in the financial services industry.

My support for credit unions does not mean hostility to banks, because I do not think credit unions represent a threat to the continued success of banks. Credit unions remain member-owned not-for-profit institutions directed by volunteer boards that pool their resources to help each other. And while credit unions have changed and grown, that has not prevented banks from growing as well. In 2005, bank profits reached a record level of \$134.2 billion.

Banks have a 94% share of the financial services industry, holding more than \$10 trillion in assets. In fact, the net growth in bank assets in 2005—\$626 billion—was nearly as much as the combined total assets of all credit unions in the country while one of the biggest banks has assets that exceed the \$669 billion in assets held by all the credit unions.

In view of these realities, I am not persuaded that the modest changes in credit union regulation included in CURIA represent a real threat to the continued success of the banking industry—and there is no doubt they can and will benefit consumers.

Similarly, consumers will benefit from the common-sense changes in the rules governing issuance of credit cards that would be accomplished by enacting H.R. 5383, the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act, which I introduced earlier this year.

That bill reflects the reality that Congress needs to do more to promote responsibility by those who provide credit, beginning with credit card companies. Like a similar (but not identical) bill introduced by Senator DODD, my bill takes some simple, common-sense steps to stop abusive practices, educate cardholders, and stiffen the penalties for violations.

I hope that when we return in September, the House will have an opportunity to consider both H.R. 2317, the Credit Union Regulatory Improvements Act, and H.R. 5383, the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTIN TAGGART

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martin L. Taggart as he retires from a distinguished career as a coach and an educator at Moapa Valley High School.

Marty Taggart grew up in Afton, Wyoming. He graduated from Southern Utah University with a major in Physical Science and Health and minors in both Math and Botany. During college, Taggart played 4 years of football and spent his summers as a forest ranger.

Marty has been a beloved teacher in Moapa Valley for the past 35 years. When he began his career, Moapa Valley High School served all of the students in Moapa Valley from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. Marty spent the first 13 years of his career teaching junior high school math, science and physical education. However, he has spent the majority of his career teaching at the high-school level. In addition to math, science and physical education, Taggart has taught health, careers, and weight training while at Moapa Valley High School.

Although he has been an incredibly committed educator, perhaps his most memorable contributions to Moapa Valley High School are those he made while coaching football and wrestling. Coach Taggart founded the wrestling program in Moapa Valley and has been the driving force behind its expansion and success over the past 31 years. He has also spent the past 33 years coaching football at Moapa Valley High School. Both teams have been very competitive and enjoyed many successes as a result of Coach Taggart's dedicated leadership.

As a coach and as an educator, Marty Taggart has been devoted to helping his students grow and succeed. He has emphasized discipline and hard work as a way for every person to achieve at the height of their ability. In doing so, he has made a profound impact on his students, his colleagues and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Marty Taggart. The commitment he has shown to both the academic and athletic programs at Moapa Valley High School has truly enriched countless lives. I applaud Marty's years of service to the school and surrounding community and I wish him the very best for an enjoyable retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF IKE AND OLIVE HAMMOND OF ORLEANS, INDIANA

HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute to recognize a couple of my constituents marking a truly momentous occasion. W.E. "Ike" and Olive E. Hammond of Orleans, IN will celebrate 60 years of marriage on Wednesday, August 2nd, 2006.

Both Ike and Olive have been lifelong residents of Orleans and have been active participants in their community. Both are involved in the local Republican Party, and have been for quite some time. In fact, their daughter shared a memory of riding on a float in a parade in 1952 proudly wearing her, "I like Ike" memorabilia. Olive served as County Vice-Chairwoman for the party and Ike served three terms on the Orleans Town Council. To this day, the Town Council looks to Ike for consultation on matters of importance to community. In 2001, Ike was recognized as "Citizen of the Year" in Orleans. The Hammonds have been members of the Orleans United Methodist Church for over 60 years.

Ike proudly served our country in the Second World War in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a crew member on a B-17. Ike continues to be an active member of the American Legion in Orleans. In his civilian career, Ike was in the insurance business retiring in 1988 after a 40-year career. Olive served the area as a Probation Officer in Orange County and has since retired.

In what was perhaps their most important job, the Hammond's raised three daughters who love, support, and congratulate them on their 60 years of marriage.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor I share in congratulating these two fine people who have enjoyed 60 years of love together as husband and wife. I wish them many more years of happiness and memories together.

HONORING TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB HUNTER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bob Hunter has served the people of Taylor and

Nolan Counties honorably in the Texas Legislature for the past 20 years. He truly is a statesman and a scholar. Now, as he leaves the Texas House of Representatives, I would like to take time to recognize his tireless service to the State and her people.

Dr. Hunter was born in California, but his home is firmly in Texas. He has left a legacy of service that began with the Navy in the South Pacific and has spanned the six decades since. He has been a champion of higher education and a servant to the people of Abilene and the surrounding area.

Dr. Hunter began his relationship with the region with his enrollment as a student at Abilene Christian University in 1948. He took his first job after his Navy service back at ACU in 1956 and remained a vital part of the university's administration until 1993, when he retired as Senior Vice President. The degrees he earned in his time at ACU were just his first. He has gone on to be honored with no fewer than seven honorary doctorate degrees.

Dr. Hunter received many honors in gratitude for his work to open the doors of academic choice for all Texans. He was instrumental in passage of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant program, which helps Texas students to attend the Texas private college or university of their choice. While an ACU administrator, he was appointed to the State's Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education and served as Executive Vice President of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, serving 40 institutions statewide.

In 1986 Dr. Hunter was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and since then has served the citizens of his district faithfully, chairing several House committees and working on issues such as higher education, economic development, tourism and veterans affairs. While a State Representative, he has continued to serve his alma mater and the people of his district through involvement in civic organizations and charities.

As Representative Hunter retires from the Texas Legislature to return to his wife, three children and four grandchildren, I congratulate and thank him for his many years of service to the Abilene area and the State of Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FEDERAL LIVING WAGE ACT ACT"

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Living Wage Act," legislation to mandate a livable wage for employees under federal contracts and sub-contracts. Twenty Representatives are original cosponsors to this important legislation.

I introduce this bill after the Chicago City Council took a strong stand for workers by passing a living wage ordinance for employees of big-box retailers. The ordinance is an important victory in the fight for living wages for all workers.

That fight now needs to come here, to Washington, where it is long overdue. The bill I am introducing today will hopefully move us closer to delivering all workers in America a fair and equitable wage. No full-time worker

deserves to live in poverty. And certainly, the federal government should not be in the business of paying federal workers, or federally contracted workers, sub-poverty wages.

Although Congress passed laws, such as the Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act, to help ensure that employees of Federal contracts earn a decent wage, thousands of Federal workers and federally contracted workers still do not earn enough to support themselves and their families.

This legislation will allow hard-working individuals to earn quality wages and to increase their savings for such essential needs as their retirement and their children's education. The Federal government must take responsible, workable steps to reward working Americans and to help keep them out of poverty. This bill represents a practical and tangible step toward this goal and I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for the passage of this important and sensible legislation.

WSSC EXTENSION REMARKS

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the commendable efforts of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) in safeguarding the citizens of Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland from flooding. On the weekend of June 24, 2006 anywhere from six inches to two feet of rain fell in the Washington, DC area, leaving some homes under water, bridges washed away, and residents displaced.

The WSSC is among the ten largest water and wastewater utilities in the Nation, serving 1.6 million customers in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. The agency's response to the storms and subsequent flooding was executed with foresight and sound planning. Their staff remained in constant communication with city, state, and emergency officials, allowing residents to evacuate in a safe and timely manner.

One noteworthy individual is WSSC Systems Control Group Leader, Karen Wright. Wright and her staff were responsible for monitoring the rainfall and opening the dam gates. Recently, she was recognized by The Baltimore Sun for her efforts.

In crisis situations such as the June storms, it is comforting to know that the employees of the WSSC can rise to the occasion, make the difficult decisions, and safeguard our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending the WSSC and its employees on a job well done.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE VETERANS HOMES

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 347, honoring

the National Association of Veterans Homes and the 119 State Veterans Homes represented by that association for their contributions to the health care of veterans and the health care system of the Nation.

Ambrosio Guillen State Veterans Nursing Home opened its doors in my Congressional District of El Paso, TX on July 19, 2005, as the first veterans nursing home to be located in a major Texas metropolitan area. This 160-bed home has exhibited a great commitment to caring for those who have honorably served our country.

I am proud to join in the bi-partisan support shown by the House of Representatives as we honor the National Association of Veterans Homes.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting all those who dedicate themselves to serving our veterans by voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 347.

TRIBUTE TO NASA MISSION STS-121

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, we have all suffered setbacks in our lives. For most of us, millions of people are not watching as monumental tragedy unfolds in a matter of seconds.

This was the case for family and friends of the astronauts who tragically died in the Columbia Shuttle disaster in 2003. In that instant, the folks at NASA lost their friends and co-workers in the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy. It was a moment they will never forget. It was a moment that has created great sorrow and an intense pressure for perfect missions.

NASA employees, have vowed to use hard work and determination, to never again make the same mistakes. It is with that determination that they completed their second journey into space after Columbia, and it was a perfect mission.

Today I congratulate all seven members of the STS-121 mission, and the countless men and women who supported them throughout their successful 13-day, five million-mile journey. This second successful space mission since the Columbia tragedy, marks the new standard of success NASA has resolved to meet and exceed.

The Commander of STS-121, Col. Steve Lindsey was also mission commander on a space flight in 2001. He flew as pilot on 2 previous shuttle missions, and he has logged more than 1,000 hours in space. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the Air Force Institute of Technology he has been the recipient of many awards and medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, three NASA Space Flight Medals, the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal. He and his wife Diane have three children.

Pilot Mark Kelly has logged 12 days in space. His dream to become an astronaut started with Alan Shepard, the first American to fly into space. A graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, he flew 39 combat missions in Operation Desert Storm. He has logged over 4,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft and has served as a pilot on

STS-108. With this latest mission, he has logged almost 25 days in space. He is also the father of two children.

Mission Specialist Michael Fossum, wasn't always an astronaut. Before riding into the heavens he was a NASA Systems Engineer, charged with evaluating the use of the Russian Soyuz spacecraft as a viable emergency escape vehicle for the space station. He also represented the Flight Crew Operations Directorate during the redesign of the International Space Station. Once a Capsule Communicator, CAPCOM, in Mission Control, Fossum was able to log more than 306 hours in space during STS-121. He and his wife Melanie have four children.

Mission Specialist Lisa Nowak, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, made her first space flight on STS-121. She also logged 13 days of space flight time. A former Mission Commander and EW Lead of the Electronic Warfare Aggressor Squadron 34, she also worked in the Astronaut Office Robotics Branch and in NASA Mission Control as prime communicator with on-orbit crews. She and her husband have three children.

A Harvard graduate, Stephanie Wilson served as an astronaut on STS-121, her first mission into space. She has completed extensive research on controlling and modeling large, flexible space structures. She has worked for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and was a member of the Attitude and Articulation Control Subsystem for the Galileo spacecraft. After working in Mission Control Wilson worked in the Astronaut Office Shuttle Operations Branch, with the Space Shuttle Main Engines, External Tank and Solid Rocket Boosters.

Mission Specialist Piers Sellers is an expert on how the Earth's biosphere and atmosphere interact. His studies have included computer modeling of the climate system, satellite remote sensing studies and climatological field work coordinating aircraft, satellites and ground teams across the world. Sellers also worked part time in Moscow as a technical liaison on ISS computer software. This is his second mission and he has logged more than 559 hours in space, and 6 spacewalks. He and his wife have two children.

Finally, Mission Specialist Thomas Reiter, of Germany is the only astronaut to stay in space during STS-121. He will live aboard the International Space Station and return to Earth aboard Shuttle mission STS-116 or a Russian Soyuz in a few months. He has trained as a cosmonaut and was also involved in European Space Agency, ESA, studies of manned space vehicles and the development of equipment for the International Space Station. He and Russian colleagues were on the crew of ESA-Russian Euromir 95 mission to the Mir Space Station. Reiter was the on-board engineer for the record-breaking 179-day mission. He performed some 40 European scientific experiments and performed two spacewalks. He and his wife have two sons.

Each astronaut on this mission and the countless people who supported them accomplished great tasks, to help our space program move forward, in characteristic giant steps.

NASA equipped this shuttle with more cameras to improve views and data from all angles of the shuttle during and after launch. Piers Sellers and Mike Fossum performed spacewalks to test equipment, remove and replace power, command and data cables on

International Space Station equipment. They also tested techniques for inspecting and repairing the Shuttle mid-flight while also successfully transferring 14 tons of equipment to the ISS.

Mr. Speaker today I congratulate the NASA space program for enduring great tragedy, and turning it into a monumental success, again. They are doing what we all hope to have the strength and power to do during times of great adversity, they are facing the challenge and then conquering it.

I wish everyone involved in our space program the very best as they embark on future missions which will no doubt, continue to change our country for the better. That's Just the Way It Is.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology;

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I rise in appreciation that House Leadership has at last brought a health information technology bill to the floor. As a cochair of the New Democrat Coalition, I have been a long-time supporter of health IT. I believe health IT, if done correctly, will highlight the need for personal accountability in health care, advance technological innovation, promote fiscal responsibility and, most importantly, improve health and save lives. Additionally, great strides can be made in homeland security as well as tracking disease and infection.

I am pleased that H.R. 4157 will codify in law the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and that the coordinator will be tasked with devising a national strategic plan for implementing health IT. Additionally, the grant money authorized by the bill is a worthwhile, if small, step in the right direction. Representing western Wisconsin, I know too well how difficult it is for small medical practices to afford the purchase and upkeep of software and hardware needed for electronic medical records. The \$5 million in grants to rural or underserved urban areas is the first of many such grants Congress must facilitate.

While I am pleased the bill is moving forward, I am disappointed that negotiations were not done in a more bipartisan manner. It is good to see that harmful and invasive policies on privacy issues were removed from the bill, and I am hopeful that when the House and Senate meet in conference, members will take a hard look at strengthening further the bill's privacy provisions.

Mr. Chairman, I plan on voting for this health IT bill and look forward to working with the Senate on improving it. America's doctors, nurses, and patients deserve 21st century technology in the health care system, and it is past time for Congress to be acting on this issue.

TRIBUTE TO PSORIASIS
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of August as Psoriasis Awareness Month and to speak on behalf of the 7.5 million Americans who are afflicted with this disease.

Those affected by psoriasis suffer from chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling skin irritations referred to as scales that can cover anywhere from small patches of skin to entire sections of their body. Many of those who have psoriasis also suffer from psoriatic arthritis, which causes severe stiffness and swelling of the joints. Psoriasis typically develops between the ages of 15 and 25, and while there are varied treatments, there is no cure for this disease.

This auto-immune disease has become both a burden on the individual and society. Many people afflicted with psoriasis battle social discrimination and stigma because psoriasis is mistakenly thought of as a contagious disease, and sometimes patients needlessly have incorrect or delayed diagnosis. Also, it is estimated that psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis cost the nation 56 million hours of lost work and between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in treatments each year.

I would like to thank the National Psoriasis Foundation, whose national headquarters is located in Oregon. Their tireless work has brought the struggle of those affected by psoriasis and the need for more psoriasis research through the National Institutes of Health, NIH, to combat this disease to light. Their message of awareness they brought to our offices has been helpful and has worked to elevate understanding of this diseases.

Mr. Speaker, too many people in this country needlessly suffer from psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. We must work to decrease the amount of incorrect or delayed diagnosis, inadequate treatments and insufficient access to care. I am ready to work with my constituents, the National Psoriasis Foundation and my colleagues to elevate the awareness of psoriasis and expansion of research of effective treatments for this debilitating disease.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Chairman, please consider the attached letters of support for the McMORRIS-Smith MAP IT Amendment to H.R. 4157 as included in my remarks.

JULY 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Congress has made substantial progress in moving health information technology (HIT) legislation this year. We urge you to expeditiously pass this legislation now as a critical step toward realizing the President's goal of electronic health records for most Americans.

There is one amendment to this legislation that HIMSS would like for you to consider when this legislation is brought up on the House floor today that will be offered by Ms. Cathy McMorris and Mr. Adam Smith of Washington. This amendment would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a two year project to demonstrate the impact of health information technology on disease management for chronic disease sufferers within the Medicaid population; create a web-based virtual case management tool that provides access to best practices for managing chronic disease; and require that the Secretary of Health and Human Services submit to Congress a report on the project conducted and include in the report the amount of cost-savings resulting from the project and such recommendations for legislation or administrative action as the Secretary determines appropriate. There is no funding authorized for this amendment. HIMSS supports this amendment as it is consistent with our HIMSS Legislative Principle of encouraging the best use of information technology to improve the quality of health care while lowering the cost.

HIMSS believes that H.R. 4157 and the addition of this amendment will help fulfill President Bush's goal of most Americans having an electronic health record by the year 2014. The passage of health information technology legislation is critical to moving us towards these benefits. With that in mind, we urge you to pass H.R. 4157 and the McMorris/Smith amendment by the August break so that a conference report with the Senate can be completed and the Congress can pass meaningful healthcare reform this year.

Sincerely,

H. STEPHEN LIEBER,
CAE President/CEO.

JULY 27, 2006.

Hon. CATHY McMORRIS,
1708 Longworth Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ADAM SMITH,
227 Cannon Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN McMORRIS AND CONGRESSMAN SMITH: The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) thanks you for your strong support of health information technology and your efforts to improve healthcare quality, increase patient safety, and to reduce unnecessary costs and administrative burdens in our healthcare system. AHIMA strongly supports H.R. 4157, the "Health Information Technology Promotion Act," and supports the inclusion of your amendment, the Medicaid Access Project through Information Technology (MAP IT) legislation.

Experts report that two of the simplest ways to reduce health care costs include the utilization of health information technology and more effective chronic disease management. Your amendment effectively merges these two methods together, and requires the Secretary to report to Congress the amount of cost-savings resulting from the project.

Along with your amendment, AHIMA strongly supports all of the provisions of H.R. 4157, especially those that address the

timely updating of standards that enable electronic exchange and the critical need to upgrade our inefficient and ambiguous ICD-9 coding system to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS by October 1, 2010. This compliance date is more than 4 years from today and nearly 8 years from when the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics concluded in 2003, after several years of hearings, that ICD-9-CM was "increasingly unable to address the needs for accurate data for health care billing, quality assurance, and health services research," and that it was "in the best interests of the country" to move expeditiously to replace it.

Coded health data serves as the foundation for billing, claims processing, payment and pricing. The current classification, ICD-9-CM, was developed and implemented in the 1970s and can no longer capture today's medical knowledge and cannot support the transition to an interoperable health data exchange in the United States. In addition, the procedural coding component of ICD-9-CM is fast running out of space and in the near future, will exhaust these codes requiring that existing non-discrete codes be assigned to new procedures. Dr. Mark McClellan, CMS Administrator, publicly stated last month that it is imperative that the United States implement ICD-10 as soon as possible because he described the current coding system as "bursting at the seams." Furthermore, many of the codes now in use do not accurately describe the diagnosis or procedure concepts they are assigned to represent. Combined with the exhaustion of codes, this will have serious implications for quality reporting, research and appropriate payment for advancements in medical technology.

Thank you for advancing the MAP IT amendment and for supporting an important and good bill. We look forward to continuing our work with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

DON ASMONGA,
Director of Govern-
ment Relations,
American Health In-
formation Manage-
ment Association.

JULY 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for the consideration of H.R. 4157 today on the floor of the House of Representatives. Advancing health information technology (HIT) is of critical importance to bettering patient quality, evidence-based medicine, and modernizing our industry.

Northwest Physicians Network (NPN) is the largest delegated independent physicians association in the Northwest. We represent approximately 450 physicians in Washington State and over 17,000 patient lives for which we contract for managed care. NPN has made HIT a cornerstone of our investment in the future of our patients' care and our physicians' practices, so it is with some anticipation that we have followed the House's progress on H.R. 4157.

In particular, I am writing in support of an amendment brought to the floor by Rep. Adam Smith and Rep. Cathy McMorris. This amendment would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a 2-year project to demonstrate the impact of health information technology on disease management for chronic disease sufferers within the Medicaid population. It would create a web-based virtual case management tool that provides access to best practices for managing chronic disease. Also, this amendment requires that the Secretary of

Health and Human Services submit to Congress a report on the project conducted and include in the report the amount of cost-savings resulting from the project and such recommendations for legislation or administrative action as the Secretary determines appropriate. There is no funding authorized for this amendment.

Both Ms. McMorris and Mr. Smith are leaders among our Pacific Northwest delegation on the topic of HIT. Their bipartisan collaboration on this measure speaks to the common-sense approach of the amendment itself. I urge your support and the House's adoption of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA C. BRIGGS,
Chief Executive Officer,
Northwest Physicians Network.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this amendment, which is being offered by Congressman SMITH and Congresswoman MCMORRIS.

This amendment, which establishes a 2-year project to demonstrate the impact of HIT on chronic disease management within the Medicaid population, will add a vital component to the underlying bill.

I applaud Congressman SMITH and Congresswoman MCMORRIS for their leadership on this issue.

I also rise today in strong support of forward movement on the implementation of health information technology, which has the potential to save the United States billions of dollars in health care costs each year.

The bill before us today is not perfect, but it's a start. I look forward to continuing the debate on this issue and improving this bill in conference.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, as an OB-GYN with over 40 years experience in medical practice, I understand the need to improve the health care system's efficiency by increasing the use of electronic medical records. However, H.R. 4157 is neither a constitutional nor a wise means of achieving this worthy goal.

Creating a new federal department to develop a "national strategic plan" for the use of electronic health care records will inevitably lead to the imposition of a "one-size-fits all" standard and will discourage private parties from exploring other more innovative means of storing medical records electronically. By stifling private sector innovation, H.R. 4157 guarantees that the American people will have an inferior health information technology system. Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues: when has a government system ever performed as well as a system developed by the private sector? In fact, Mr. Chairman, based on my 40 years of experience, I would say a major reason the health profession lags behind other professions in using information technology is the excessive government intervention in, and control of, America's health care system!

Those who are concerned with the increasing erosion of medical privacy should also oppose H.R. 4157. H.R. 4157 facilitates the invasion of medical privacy by explicitly making electronic medical records subject to the misnamed federal "medical privacy" regulation. Mr. Chairman, many things in Washington are misnamed, however this regulation may be the most blatant case of false advertising I have come across in all my years in Congress. Rather than protect an individual right to medical privacy, these regulations empower government officials to determine how much medical privacy an individual needs.

The so-called "medical privacy" regulation not only reduce individuals' ability to determine who has access to their personal medical information, but actually threatens medical privacy and constitutionally protected liberties. For example, these regulations allow law enforcement and other government officials' access to a citizen's private medical record without having to obtain a search warrant.

Allowing government officials to access a private person's medical records without a warrant is a violation of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which protects American citizens from warrantless searches by government officials. The requirement that law enforcement officials obtain a warrant from a judge before searching private documents is one of the fundamental protections against abuse of the government's power to seize an individual's private documents. While the Fourth Amendment has been interpreted to allow warrantless searches in emergency situations, it is hard to conceive of a situation where law enforcement officials would be unable to obtain a warrant before electronic medical records would be destroyed.

By creating a new federal bureaucracy to establish a "national strategic plan" for the adoption of electronic health care records, H.R. 4157 discourages private sector innovation and expands government control of the medical profession. H.R. 4157 also facilitates the violation of medical privacy. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEAM (TO ENCOURAGE ALTERNATIVELY-FUELED VEHICLE MANUFACTURING) UP FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, climate change threatens the security and stability of our planet. The temperature of the earth is increasing at a rate unseen in modern times. Climate forecasters predict that if greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere at the current rate, temperatures may rise dramatically, weather patterns sharply shift, ice sheets shrink, and seas rise.

Rising gas prices and instability in oil producing regions have reinforced the need for the United States to secure our energy independence. We can make progress by developing and distributing alternatively fueled vehicles. Through innovation as well as existing technology, we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and promote energy efficiency and conservation to secure a safer future for our country and the environment.

Alternatively fueled vehicles, such as those that use E85 ethanol fuel, could reduce our use of petroleum fuels by up to 40 percent, helping our country move towards sustainable energy independence. E85 ethanol fuel can be produced from agricultural products grown here in the United States, so that money spent on fuel supports farmers in the Midwest, not countries in the Middle East.

Congress must do more to make alternative fueled vehicles practical and accessible to every American. There are currently only six million E85-capable vehicles on U.S. roads, compared to approximately 230 million gasoline- and diesel-fueled vehicles, according to the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition. Only 556 fuel stations in the entire country currently provide E85 fuel, with only four of these located in California.

That is why I am introducing this bill to encourage manufacturers to provide a flex fuel opportunity to American consumers and to develop the infrastructure necessary for a cleaner energy future. We must do more to make alternatively fueled vehicles practical and accessible to everyone. The cost of producing flex fuel capable vehicles is minimal at the time of manufacture, but there are currently few incentives for the production of flex fuel vehicles and a lack of infrastructure to service them.

My bill will encourage the production of more alternatively fueled vehicles by phasing in a tax penalty on the manufacture or import of new, non-flex fuel vehicles. However, since the cost to manufacture fleets that are flex fuel capable as compared to gasoline powered vehicles is nearly nil, it will be easy for manufacturers or importers to avoid these costs completely. Any revenues generated would be used to help independent gas station owners install alternative fuel equipment. This bill is a good first step towards securing our energy independence, and I hope that Congress will move quickly to pass this important legislation and help America move towards a more secure and sustainable future.

HONORING MR. DANIEL E.
McKEEVER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the City of Falls Church, Virginia has lost a steady hand, sure-footed manager and good friend this week, with the passing of Daniel E. McKeever.

Dan McKeever joined the Falls Church community as City Manager in 2000, after an accomplished career in both law enforcement and local government. Thoughtful, genial and very well-liked, Dan helped guide Falls Church through a period of rapid transformation. He oversaw development of a number of mixed-use projects that revitalized downtown Falls Church and will increase the City's taxable real estate value by \$336 million.

During his 6 year tenure, Dan McKeever helped implement the City Council's vision for Falls Church as a pedestrian friendly, urban community with small town charm. He worked for more affordable housing, improved the City's building permit process and spent significant time reorganizing the City's public safety system. As City Manager, Dan placed a premium on efficiency, team work, transparency and communication. Shepherding a \$25 million bond referendum for new school construction and protecting the City's AA+ bond rating were among his most noted accomplishments.

In his spare time, Dan was an avid baseball fan, attending as many Washington Nationals games as his busy schedule would allow. He was even a part owner of a minor league baseball team in Pulaski, Virginia, where he served as Chief of Police and town manager in the 1980's.

Never one to wilt in the face of an obstacle, no matter the challenge presented, Dan was intimately involved with the City's management throughout his nine-month battle with cancer. While Dan left us far too soon, his good works, cheerful demeanor and practical advice will long be remembered by the citizens of Falls Church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am listed as voting "yea" during rollcall vote number 401 on H.R. 5013, the "Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act of 2006," when it was before the House of Representatives on Tuesday, July 25, 2006. This is an error. I oppose H.R. 5013 and want it noted that had my intention been properly expressed I would be recorded as having voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO MARINE CORPORAL
JEREMIAH CUMMINS

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corporal Jeremiah Cummins, of San Ramon, CA, who recently returned from his third tour of duty in Iraq. Corporal Cummins served in the Third Marine Battalion of the 5th Marines with bravery and honor, and I am honored to represent him in Congress.

First sent to Iraq shortly after the initial invasion was winding down, Corporal Cummins spent that tour in a town about 80 or so miles south of Baghdad called Diyauneah. For his next tour he served in Fallujah, which saw some of the fiercest fighting. His third tour saw him stationed a few miles south of Fallujah and patrolling south of that post until the last 6 weeks of the deployment when he was posted in Ramadi, the scene of more fierce fighting.

Corporal Cummins is a remarkable young man, and I rise today to honor and thank him for his service, and the service of all those who put themselves in harm's way for our Nation.

HONORING TODD FOXWORTH,
RUSK CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate and honor Todd Foxworth for being recognized by the Rusk Chamber of Commerce as the 2005 Citizen of the Year.

A native Texan, Warden Foxworth earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Sam Houston State University in Criminology/Corrections. He was recognized by SHSU as a Criminal Justice Scholar in 1988 and a member of the Criminal Justice Honor Society, Alpha Phi Sigma. He answered his Nation's call to service in the U.S. Army, serving with the 2nd Battalion, 36th Infantry Rangers in the 3rd Armored Division, and was nominated for "Soldier of the Year" 90th Army Command in 1986.

After his service in the armed forces, Warden Foxworth served over 19 years with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. His work has been instrumental in the beautification, emergency relief, construction and maintenance-related demands of the surrounding communities providing offender manpower through the Community Work Squad.

Warden Foxworth is also an exemplary member of the community and has always made an extra effort to help his fellow citizens. He has been personally involved as a member of the Rusk Industrial Foundation and Economic Development Committee. He has worked in fund raising for such charitable organizations as March of Dimes, Toys for Tots, Texas Special Olympics and Cherokee County Crisis Center.

It am proud to honor Warden Todd Foxworth and his valuable contributions to the

Rusk Community and congratulate him for being named Rusk Citizen of the year.

FREEDOM FOR ALEXANDER
SANTOS HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alexander Santos Hernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Santos Hernández is a member of the pro-democracy opposition that seeks to return sovereignty, democracy and human rights to the Cuban people. According to reports, he is a member of the Cuban Liberal Movement, the director of an independent library and the national coordinator for the Eastern Democratic Alliance. Independent librarians in Cuba, such as Mr. Santos Hernández, provide the indispensable service of circulating truth. These vital librarians loan out the classics of anti-totalitarian literature, including authors such as Vaclav Havel and Martin Luther King, Jr.

As an outspoken opponent of tyranny who believes that liberty is an inalienable right, Mr. Santos Hernández has been constantly targeted by the regime's machinery of repression. According to reports, in Nov. 2004, Mr. Santos Hernández spent six months in the totalitarian gulag because he was "convicted" for "disobedience." Despite the regime's constant gangster style repression, Mr. Santos Hernández continued his efforts to bring freedom to Cuba.

According to a report published on June 5, 2006, on Directorio.org, Mr. Santos Hernández was recently "convicted" in another sham trial for the "crime" of "social dangerousness." He was sentenced to 4 years in the abhorrent, subhuman, totalitarian gulag. The U.S. State Department reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these grotesque conditions.

Freedom and democracy are on the march to inevitable victory in Cuba. Courageous leaders like Mr. Santos Hernández defy the dictator's machinery of repression and, despite every threat and obstacle, demand liberty for the people of Cuba. Because of their unwavering commitment, and the works of thousands of other Cuban patriots, Cuba will be free again.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We can never forget those who are locked in gulags because of their desire to be free. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alexander Santos Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall 417, a Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2830. I would like the RECORD to show that I had intended to vote "no."

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

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. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5682, the United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006.

In January of 2004, I had the opportunity to visit India with my wife and colleagues. During that trip I spoke with Defense Minister George Fernandes, and we discussed closer military cooperation between India and the United States. Even at that time, India favored closer military cooperation, but there were too many regulations, restrictions and laws on the books in a post 9-11 world. These laws inhibited closer military strategic cooperation. Fernandes explained that India and the United States hadn't been able to pursue a defense relationship because of outdated and insufficient export control policies. This, he said, had compelled India to develop a defense partnership with other nations. Until recently, approximately 70 percent of India's imported military equipment was from Russia.

One cannot help but ask why this is so? While we were having that conversation the United States military was conducting hip to hip joint military exercises with the Indian military in the Indian Ocean to fight against the global war on terror. If our men and women in uniform can conduct military exercises side by side with India's men and women against the enemies of democracy—we can develop a partnership between the Indian defense industry and the U.S. defense industry. We are partners. We share the same values. We share a partnership on the war on terror.

And in a short time that relationship has advanced. The two countries have been working closely on joint technology developments. And we need to expand that partnership, not only on a security basis, but also as we look at another key challenge we face: energy.

India, America's strongest ally in the region, is on the verge of energy insecurity: India does not have the domestic energy resources to sustain its rapidly growing economy, and consequently must meet its requirements through foreign energy resources. India's oil demand has doubled between 1990 and 2003 and will double again within the next 25 years.

As India consumes more energy from the world's finite energy supply, the cost for energy for ordinary Americans will increase significantly. Two-thirds of India's annual oil consumption is imported, and it is projected that India will import over 90 percent of its annual oil requirements within the next 15 years. Currently, nuclear energy only comprises 3 percent of India's energy consumption, and this number cannot increase substantially without civilian nuclear cooperation with the United States. That is why I think that along with civilian nuclear cooperation, a renewable energy partnership is equally as important. Many people don't realize that this deal will help keep energy costs down for ordinary Americans by reducing demand in the global oil market.

So I would like to spend a few minutes speaking on U.S.-India renewable energy cooperation. Something that is extremely important for both countries. After 6 years in Congress I have found that every single threat we face here at home is either derived from or based on one thing: our dependence on foreign oil. Renewable energy cooperation between the U.S. and India would help both countries tremendously.

When we dropped 2,500 pound bombs on Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, the order was given to 2 fighter planes. Only one could respond, because the other was in mid-air refueling. What better metaphor for the dangers of our current energy reliance!

Before leaving for India in 2004 I read the book "India" by Stanley Wolpert. In his book he wrote—"if India ever learns to harness its solar energy economically, the desert states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh could become valuable centers of power generation and transmission. Even as oil reserves have catapulted Arabia to affluence, solar power might launch central India into an age of rich growth and development, especially were it used to help tap mother Ganga's Perennial flow. India's major liability might then become her greatest asset."

We have some plans in place but we need to keep pushing to make sure that the two countries work together.

The Indian minister of non-conventional energy sources (MNES) recently met with experts at the National Renewable Energy Lab to discuss potential areas of collaboration. These areas include solar thermal power generation, low wind speed technology research & development, renewable energy resource assessment and the use of resource data in relevant analysis tools. The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has proposed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DOE'S National Renewable Energy Laboratory to focus on hydrogen and biofuels research. This MOU will be the basis for future joint research. I am asking that Congress fully fund these programs and bring them to fruition, and work with India.

Mr. Chairman, we will need democratic partners in meeting threats and defending our national security. We will need democratic friends and allies with shared values and principles.

I saw that demonstrated last July not in India, but on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I was one of the Members who urged the congressional leadership to allow Prime Minister Singh to address a joint session of congress.

There it was for the whole world to see. the head of the largest democracy on earth (India) . . . speaking in the Congress of the oldest democracy on earth (America). That gave me great hope that we will triumph over our mutual challenges of terrorism and energy dependence.

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

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:

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5682, the "United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006."

As the world's largest democracy in a strategically important part of the world, India is a critical ally for the United States. Continuing the process of improving our relationship is thus very important. This agreement, H.R. 5682, will help us build a stronger partnership with India by allowing the United States to provide nuclear technology and fuel in order that India may meet its growing energy needs.

This agreement also is an improvement over the current situation with respect to India and the threat posed by the spread of nuclear weapons. As a nonsignatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), India is outside the international nuclear nonproliferation scheme. This agreement provides incentives to gain its cooperation because under H.R. 5682 the United States can only provide India nuclear assistance if the President certifies that India is taking certain specific steps to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons. These steps include the provision of a credible plan to separate its civilian and military nuclear programs, an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to apply IAEA safeguards to its civilian nuclear apparatus, and the taking of steps to prevent the export of sensitive nuclear materials or technology.

Furthermore, after the President makes the necessary certifications, Congress still has to approve any nuclear supply agreement with India before it can go forward. This provides an opportunity for Congress to make its own independent analysis of the extent to which India has followed through on its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

I do have some concerns about this legislation. It does not provide as many protections against the proliferation of nuclear weapons as I would have liked. And, I would have preferred that as a condition for aid India would at least have been required to agree to halt or limit its production of fissile material used for nuclear weapons. I will support the amendments offered by Representatives SHERMAN and BERMAN which would achieve this later goal.

Despite the fact that it is not perfect, H.R. 5682 is a net plus for the United States and

the world. This legislation and the resulting nuclear supply agreements with India should improve an important strategic relationship and reduce the likelihood nuclear weapons will fall into the hands of those who wish to do us harm, including rogue states and terrorists.

A POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO PASTOR BISHOP CLARENCE HARMON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the late Pastor Bishop Clarence Harmon, a man who was a giant among men in the Brooklyn, New York community. Although he has passed on, it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments, as the community prepares to honor the memory of this great man of God at a memorial service on July 30, 2006.

Clarence Harmon was born July 26, 1926 in Columbia, South Carolina. After completing high school, he came to New York City. After several years in New York, he met and married Catherine P. Penn. To that union, three children, one daughter and two sons were born. It was after their marriage that he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and joined Betterview Baptist Church. Upon departure from Betterview, he became affiliated with the Institutional Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Reverend Carl E. Williams. There, God began to mold and shape him for greater service. On Easter Sunday, 1951, he preached his first sermon. He graduated from Shelton College in 1956. In April 1956, he started a mission at 645 Halsey Street, Brooklyn. Shortly thereafter, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, Elder Harmon was led to 623 Madison Street. The building was totally void. However, the spirit of God confirmed to him whispering the words "This Is It" and the Lord blessed his hands to build a structure such as the one that is known as Unity Temple.

During the latter part of 1956, Unity Temple became affiliated with the Church of God in Christ, Inc. Eastern New York Jurisdiction. For the next 30 years, Pastor Harmon held various leadership positions within the COGIC, such as: President and Administrative Assistant of the Pioneers, Chairman of the Board of Elders; President of the State Benevolent Committee; and Superintendent of District No. 3 under the leadership of the late Bishop F. D. Washington. As an Assistant Bishop to over 100 churches throughout the dioceses of the Churches of God in Christ, Bishop Harmon instituted a benevolence committee to take care of the pioneers and widows of the Eastern N.Y. Jurisdiction.

In 1988, he was appointed to the position of First Assistant of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Eastern New York; the late Bishop Ithiel Clemmons, Jurisdictional Prelate. In October 1995, he was elevated to the office of Bishop in the Churches of God in Christ. He served as Presiding Bishop of the O. M. Kelly/ F. D. Washington Brotherhood.

Bishop Harmon was a pioneer in the Brooklyn community, hosting one of the largest food pantries in Bedford-Stuyvesant feeding over

4,000 people a month. Bishop Harmon was a generous person donating his time and talent to those in need. He had an open door policy at the church, often allowing weddings and funerals to be held without cost. Bishop Harmon's favorite saying was "Everybody is somebody" and he lived and proved that every day. Through his ministry, 15 churches to date have been birthed. Though small in stature, Bishop Harmon stood tall among men. He acquired the name "Muscles" from his friends in the ministry because of his strength and tenacity in defending the underprivileged. Some of those friends included the late Bishop F.D. Washington, Bishop O.M. Kelly and Bishop I. Clemmons, to name a few.

He was and still is an inspiration to those who knew him. Bishop Harmon's church community continues his legacy through the implementation of the Clarence Harmon Scholarship Fund that will award two scholarships in his name to high school seniors seeking a college degree. This tribute will further serve as a reminder to our youth that no height is too great for them to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Pastor Bishop Clarence Harmon, a man who offered his talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Harmon's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions and deep sacrifices that our men and women in the military make. I would like to share the experience of one of my constituents, Major Jeff Farmer, who recently returned from Iraq and sent me this message:

I'll leave you with a little story. After going on R&R three months earlier (to date I'd been away from my home for more than twelve months), I flew into Atlanta National Airport from Kuwait for a layover waiting for the next flight to Charlottesville, VA. I had on my same uniform that I had been wearing for 36 straight hours. I was trying to get home to my family. I was hungry so I went into an Appleby's in the airport terminal. I did not feel very patriotic so I found a corner booth and dropped my pack next to the floor by my table. I was tired so I put my head down as if to meditate and trying not to attract any attention. I was not quite sure if I wanted to eat or sleep however both were weighing heavily on my mind. The waiter came to my table and reminded me that I could not drink alcohol in the airport in uniform because of General Order #1. I told the waiter that was OK. I was not drinking anyway. My eyes were a little hazy and I was appreciating the look of free people walking around and enjoying each other's conversation. It was refreshing and distracted my attention while I was trying to look at the menu and order. It was nice to hear a baby cry, people laugh, and just enjoy what they were doing without consequences or reper-

cussions. The environment was very warm which made me feel a little envious of my experience and if they really knew how good life really is. My meal finally came and I ate slowly trying to taste, smell, and enjoy every bite. French fries never tasted so good.

After an enjoyable meal I slowly got up and walked over to the counter to ask for my waiter so I could pay and leave. The cashier said, "Don't worry. The meal is covered." I thanked him and he said don't thank me. Four different people offered to pay your meal and when I told the other three the meal was paid in full they said, "Keep the money for the next soldier coming in." As I turned from the counter with my pack on my back people began to stand, thank me, pat my back, and applaud. Tears filled my eyes. I was humbled. Just the thought and gesture made me feel proud of what I was doing and my service to my country. At that moment I knew I was home.

We owe Major Jeff Farmer and his fellow servicemen and women a debt of gratitude for helping preserve freedom and democracy.

HONORING GIRLS INC.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Girls Inc., an outstanding organization that serves young women and girls throughout my district and across our country. Girls Inc. is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire all girls to be "strong, smart, and bold." With local roots dating to 1864 and national status since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls and their communities through research-based programs and public education that empower girls to reach their full potential and to understand, value, and assert their rights.

Girls Inc. reaches nearly 800,000 girls through its direct service, website, products, and publications. In 1,700 program sites in the United States and Canada, Girls Inc. directly serves girls ages 6–18 with research-based programs focusing on science, math, and technology; physical and mental health and sexuality; violence prevention and safety; substance abuse prevention; financial literacy; sports and athletic skills; leadership and advocacy; and media literacy. Of the girls served by Girls Inc., 76 percent are girls from communities of color and 70 percent come from families earning \$25,000 or less. More than half are from single-parent households, most of which are headed by women.

The Girls Inc. movement started in New England during the Industrial Revolution as a response to the needs of a new working class: young women who had migrated from rural communities in search of newly available job opportunities in textile mills and factories. The movement grew during the Great Depression, and in 1945, 19 charter clubs formed the Girls Club of America, a name that would, in 1990, change to Girls Inc.

Over the years Girls Inc. programming has changed to accommodate the evolving needs of young women in our society. While programming in the 1950s focused on preparing young women for future roles as wives and homemakers, amidst the social turbulence that marked American life in the 1960s, Girls Inc.

rethought its mission and educational message. In response to hundreds of letters from young women seeking programming that could better address the changing roles of young women and girls in our society, Girls Inc. initiated a major fundraising campaign, tripled its budget, and more than doubled the number of centers nationwide. With a strong financial foothold, and in the wake of the civil rights movement, the women's movement, and a flood of women entering the workforce, Girls Inc. shifted the organization from its role as shaper of homemakers and good citizens to a new role as an advocate for the rights and needs of girls of all backgrounds and abilities.

Girls Inc. today is a multifaceted organization, devoted to the dual goals of empowering girls and creating a more equitable society. The work of Girls Inc. is especially significant in California's 9th Congressional District, with Girls Inc. of Alameda County annually serving over 7,000 young women and their families, many of whom are my constituents. Under the excellent longtime leadership of Executive Director Pat Loomes, Girls Inc. of Alameda County has reached untold numbers of girls in the East Bay through its successful implementation of numerous programs such as the GIRLSmart intensive after school literacy program, and the Eureka Program, which seeks to give young women the opportunity to explore different career options, take on leadership roles and take positive risks.

This four-year program is especially significant to my District Office, where Girls Inc. Eureka Program participants have sought and been placed in internships there every summer for the past several years. It has been an honor to get to know these young women and to assist them in developing the tools and the knowledge they will need as our future leaders, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue this work in partnership with Girls Inc. every year.

Today, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the directors, staff, supporters, and most of all, the girls of Girls Inc. for their work to reach out to, educate and empower young women and girls everywhere. Their extraordinary work has touched the lives of countless young people, and I thank Girls Inc. for its ongoing commitment to helping all girls to become strong, smart and bold.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4157, the Health Information Technology Promotion Act. While I strongly support improving and advancing health information technology, I am disappointed that the Majority chose to bring this inadequate bill to the House Floor instead of offering the Enzi-

Kennedy-Frist-Clinton bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

H.R. 4157 does not provide for the development or adoption of interoperability standard. It does not provide funding to help providers transition to an electronic medical records system. And it does not provide privacy protections which will ensure that patients can control access to their own sensitive electronic health information. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has stated that "enacting H.R. 4157 would not significantly affect either the rate at which the use of health technology will grow or how well that technology will be designed and implemented."

Mr. Chairman, all of this makes you wonder why the Majority insisted on bringing this bill to the floor and refused to consider the Dingell-Rangel substitute. The Dingell-Rangel substitute was the bipartisan Senate-passed bill with additional key privacy protections. It authorized necessary funding to help providers adopt health IT and it removed provisions that expanded waste, fraud and abuse.

Mr. Chairman, we must bring our healthcare system into the 21st century. To do so, we must have a comprehensive, interoperable technology-based system that will also protect patient privacy. With this, we will improve efficiency, ensure patient care, and reduce medical error. Unfortunately, this bill has too many flaws and does little to improve upon our outmoded pen and pad system. I am disappointed that the Majority did not allow us to vote on a bill that will make a difference. Americans deserve better.

IN SUPPORT OF PROVIDING COTTON TARIFF RELIEF FOR HIGH-QUALITY SHIRT MAKERS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced duty suspension legislation for high-quality woven cotton shirting fabrics that are not currently produced in the United States. Today, after receiving valuable input from the International Trade Commission, ITC, and the National Council of Textile Organizations, NCTO, I am happy to reintroduce a slightly revised version of this legislation.

The high-quality cotton fabrics affected by this legislation are used in the domestic production of fine men's and boys' dress shirts. Unfortunately, several American companies that produce these shirts are being unfairly penalized by tariffs on the cotton they must import for this purpose. But because this type of cotton is not produced domestically, these tariffs protect no American interest.

What's more, Canada has eliminated its tariffs on this type of imported woven shirting fabrics, and under a provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, Canadian shirt makers can export large quantities of these shirts to the U.S. duty-free. This further puts U.S.-based shirt manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage.

Last year, following a request for public comments by the House Ways and Means Committee on all tariff relief trade bills, the NCTO raised a concern about the scope of fabrics that could conceivably be covered by

my original bill, H.R. 1945. In addition, the Ways and Means Committee requested technical comments on all tariff relief bills from the ITC.

Because this legislation was never intended to cover other cotton fabrics—and to alleviate any perceived concerns about the scope of the bill—I have adjusted the language in the bill to specifically list the affected fabrics by number. This will make it perfectly clear that the bill only covers men's and boys' cotton shirting fabrics. In addition, the bill has been adjusted to reflect minor technical corrections suggested by the ITC.

I am proud to say that this newly revised bill has gained the approval of NCTO. Therefore, it is my hope that this legislation will serve as a strong demonstration of continuing House support for these duty suspensions, which are also included in companion legislation that has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense tariff relief measure that will yield positive benefits for American companies, workers and consumers.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR CLUB OF NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Holy Saviour Club of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

The Holy Saviour Club was founded by Italian-American immigrants from the town of Montella, Italy. It was the desire of the founding families to share their Italian heritage and culture with their fellow Montgomery County citizens.

The Holy Saviour Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a weekend celebration on August 4th-6th and the members and guests will participate in a celebratory procession, feast, and a solemn mass at Holy Saviour Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Holy Saviour Club of Norristown, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. It is my hope the Club continues to prosper and promote the Italian heritage and culture of its members for the benefit of the larger Montgomery County community.

IN TRIBUTE TO LEONARD H. ROBINSON, COMMITTEE ADVOCATE FOR AFRICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leonard H. Robinson, a humble and committed public servant whose judgment and insight helped further USA policy initiatives in Africa and whose dedication and leadership helped change the lives on two different continents. Mr. Robinson who was a strong advocate for Africa, and for the rights of others, died unexpectedly at Washington Hospital

Center on July 25, 2006 of kidney failure following a short illness. Mr. Robinson's belief in the potential of Africa motivated others to look beyond themselves to see how their actions could be used to benefit others.

Born in North Carolina, Robinson earned a BA from Ohio State and did graduate studies at the State University of New York, the American University and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Mr. Robinson believed that if you can conceive it, then you can achieve it, and he proved that with all of his many accomplishments. At the tender age of 23, Mr. Robinson was named the associate Director for India for the Peace Corps, where he later became the director of minority recruitment. Mr. Robinson left America at a time when people were not learning from one another to serve in a country that benefited from his help as a black man. This experience shaped how he envisioned the rest of the world, laying the groundwork for a long and successful career in the public sector.

Following his work in the Peace Corps, Mr. Robinson served two terms as a deputy assistant secretary of State for Africa. From 1983–1984 during the Reagan administration, Robinson oversaw economic and commercial policy at the State Department. When he returned to the African Bureau in 1990, he coordinated U.S. policy toward west and central Africa and directed U.S. diplomatic efforts to end Liberia's civil war, until President Bush left office in 1994. During that time, for six years between his State Department postings, Robinson served as president of the U.S. African Development Foundation which was established by Congress to provide small-scale assistance to community based organizations in Africa.

Also in 2001, Robinson helped in the creation of the Africa society to carry on public awareness and support for Africa as a direct outgrowth of the historic National Summit on Africa. This National Summit was initiated with funding from the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York to build support for Africa in the United States. He was named President of the organization in 1999.

The Africa Society is helping educate America about Africa and has assisted in the expansion of a broad base of support for Africa through the initiatives taken on by Mr. Robinson. Bernadette Paolo, vice president and co-founder of the Africa Society said that Mr. Robinson "gave everything he had to the Africa society, and to the continent of Africa for over 30 years. He contributed brilliance, passion, and visionary leadership. He was our founder, our inspiration and our star. His memory will serve to move us forward on our mission to educate all Americans about Africa".

Africa for a long time and perhaps still is considered a poor and aids stricken "country" and not a rich and diverse continent. The African Society with Mr. Robinson's leadership has attacked this misconception. We all mourn the loss of such a true pioneer.

I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the press release written about his life published by the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa on July 25, 2006. As more and more American's perceptions and policy decisions change towards Africa, we must forever reflect on the individuals who gave their life so that we can begin the process of understanding the lives of others. One will not be able to

speaking about the progress between the USA and Africa without bringing up his name, for he has without a doubt made great contributions to achieving understanding between us.

[From the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa]

AFRICA SOCIETY STAFF—LEONARD H. ROBINSON, JR.

Leonard Robinson has more than 30 years working and living experience in international affairs, with Africa and Asia as regions of specialization. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, from 1983–85 where he was responsible for economic and commercial policy. And, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State from 1990–1993, he was responsible for U.S. policy toward Central and West Africa. His other portfolios for Africa included Narcotics, Terrorism, Democracy and the Peace Corps. He also directed U.S. diplomatic initiatives to help in the resolution of the Liberia civil war.

Robinson spent six years as President of the U.S. African Development Foundation, established by Congress in 1981 to provide official assistance to community-based organizations and grassroots enterprises throughout Africa. During his tenure, annual Congressional appropriations increased from an initial \$1m to \$17m. He has also worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Battelle Memorial Institute, and the Peace Corps where he served as a volunteer, Associate Director for India and as Director of Minority Recruitment for the United States.

A native of North Carolina, Robinson received a BA from Ohio State University; and attended graduate school at the State University of New York, Binghamton, and post graduate school at the American University, Washington, DC, and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is the recipient of two honorary doctoral degrees.

He is professor of African Studies at the University of Massachusetts—Boston, and Senior Fellow at the Center for Development and Democracy at the John W. McCormack Institute, the University's think tank. He founded LHR International Group, Inc. in 1997, a political policy consulting firm specializing in the analysis of U.S. foreign policy for the heads of state and foreign ministers of African and Asian nations.

Mr. Robinson and colleagues founded The Africa Society in 2001 as a direct outgrowth of the historic National Summit on Africa. The mission of the Africa Society is to educate and inform all Americans about the great and diverse continent of Africa. With a grant supported by the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the National Summit on Africa was established in 1997 to educate all Americans about Africa, to build a broad constituency of support for Africa in the United States, and to formulate a National Policy Plan of Action on U.S.-Africa Relations in the Twenty-First Century—the Summit held a historic conference on Africa in Washington, D.C., February 16–20, 2000. Over 8,000 Americans from every state, as well as continental Africans, attended. Robinson will continue to serve as President and CEO of the newly established Africa Society of The National Summit on Africa.

Robinson is the author of several articles and publications, and serves on a number of boards and advisory councils including the National Peace Corps Association, and Discovery Channel's Global Education Fund. In 2005 Mayor Anthony Williams appointed and swore in Robinson to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. A frequent speaker, he has made presen-

tations at World Affairs Councils throughout the U.S., the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at UNC-Chapel Hill, UMass-Boston, Eastern Connecticut University, UCLA, The Monterey Language Institute and the Miller Center at the University of Virginia.

The University of Virginia appointed Robinson as its first Diplomat Scholar in Residence in August 2004. He has been listed in Who's Who in America since 1985.

ASEAN MUST BE USED TO MAKE HUN SEN LISTEN

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and other representatives of the United States are attending the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Kuala Lumpur.

As a Representative from a State with a large and vibrant Cambodian community, I have been very closely following issues on the ground in Cambodia.

For some time, I have been deeply concerned about Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's policy of undermining democratic principles and justice.

Having met with leaders like Sam Rainsy, Mu Sochua and Kem Sokha, I have heard their chilling reports of routine violations of the Cambodian constitution's guarantees of freedom of expression and association. I have been outraged by Hun Sen's arbitrary arrests and violations of fundamental human dignity and respect.

I urge the Secretary of State to use the ASEAN forum to rally the world community to remind the Hun Sen regime of its obligations to its people.

The government must immediately end its systematic campaign to undermine democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia. The Secretary should remind the regime that the American people, the world community, and the donor community that has provided \$2 billion in aid to Cambodia is watching.

POVERTY IN AMERICA ONE YEAR FOLLOWING HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, before Congress recesses for the month of August, I would like to take a moment of time to call attention to an issue of great importance. As a nation, we are approaching the year anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, two of the most powerful and destructive natural disasters the United States has seen.

Chaos ensued in the aftermath of the hurricanes; untimely responses to the disaster in addition to inadequate resources turned the situation from a natural into a man-made disaster. As people were fleeing their homes and

gathering in camps like refugees without water, food, or adequate shelter—media coverage began to expose the dirty secret of America's working poor. Out of the 5.8 million people from the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama who were directly affected by this devastation, more than one million—nearly one-fifth of those affected—lived in poverty. These atrocities shined the light on poverty in America. People could not ignore it. Indeed, the events made Americans question, "how is it that so many people, most of them children, are living below the poverty line in the wealthiest country in the world?"

Upon visiting New Orleans after the Hurricanes, President Bush declared that the nation had a solemn duty to help the poor. But the issue of America's poor was brief in the presidential limelight. Despite the clarity of the problem of poverty that the disasters brought, poverty fails to be a priority for this administration. The war in Iraq is the top priority for this administration, draining the country's resources and taking precedent over the pressing domestic issue of abject poverty in America. Tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, not healthcare and living wages for those who are struggling to make it. Significant cuts to our social safety nets of Medicare and Medicaid. Failure to raise the minimum wage. Time after time, this Administration has promoted legislation that disenfranchises the working poor. The administration had an opportunity to address poverty, and it has shown a complete lack of leadership to do so. Poverty is not a priority for this administration.

As Members of Congress, we share the responsibility with the executive branch of government to put poverty back on the agenda, to create and fund programs that can help America's forgotten poor. I hope that assisting the poor in fundamental ways will top our legislative agenda when we return. Doing so would be the best tribute to the victims of the recent hurricane disasters to mark the year anniversary of this sad moment in our history.

RECOGNIZING NELL GRISSOM

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I want to share with this Congress the life and work of Nell Grissom at Wesley House in Meridian, Mississippi. She represents the best of Mississippi and demonstrates again and again, the power of faith, hope, and love.

Nell was stricken with polio at the age of twelve and paralyzed from the neck down. Doctors said she would never walk or have children. For years she lived in a full-length steel brace from chin to hip. But she finished high school; she married, and has three children and two grandchildren. Faith, determination, and hard work gave her inner strength to match the steel of those braces. Strength to build, guide, and direct a mission that feeds, clothes, educates, counsels, reforms, and heals: touching over 33,000 people every year.

In the mid-1960's, Wesley House Community Center in Meridian was about to close. Founded in 1904 by a group of churchwomen to bring hope into the lives of women and chil-

dren living in poverty around a cotton mill, for sixty years, they held Bible classes and sewing lessons and distributed food and shoes and Christmas presents to the poor people in that neighborhood. Methodists operated Wesley House in a small frame cottage and staffed it with a missionary deaconess.

By 1967, the church could no longer provide a deaconess and Nell Grissom, who was volunteer leader of the Youth Fellowship at Central Methodist Church, was asked to help keep the doors open until a qualified mission worker could be found. Now forty years later it is obvious to all that Nell Grissom was the mission worker they needed.

Wesley House currently serves as the central hub for the regions Toys-for-Tots drive at Christmas. Nell Grissom has also turned Wesley House into a crisis center for local, regional, and state disasters. This past year Wesley House was instrumental in distributing aid to Hurricane Katrina victims.

Years of service to thousands of people trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty, neglect, abuse, and crime, led Nell to open East Central Mississippi's first Sexual Assault Crisis Center in 1990. Almost overwhelmed by the response of hundreds of victims of sexual assault and abuse, Nell worked tirelessly. Counselors were employed and a volunteer crisis line response team was set up to counsel with victims at hospital emergency rooms and law enforcement facilities on a twenty-four hour basis. Nell's efforts have expanded the Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center at Wesley House to include a traveling counselor serving victims in five counties and abuse prevention programs in the public schools. Moving beyond direct services to victims of sexual assault and abuse, Nell Grissom expanded the Wesley House victims rights programs to include services to families of victims of homicide and other crimes.

For over forty years now, Nell Grissom has led countless volunteers to build an agency that gives victims productive futures. Helping victims of poverty and neglect before they become victims of crime is a major focus of Nell Grissom's life. Every day she and her co-workers are salvaging lives from the mean streets, instilling the virtues of work, faith, and morality in those most vulnerable of our citizens. Nell retires in August and ends this chapter in Wesley House's history, but she does so with sadness and with joy. Sadness that she will not be guiding the great services that Wesley House provides, and joy because she knows that God has used her to touch the lives of countless people.

Mr. Speaker, Nell Grissom could have rested on her laurels and retired years ago, yet she has kept working for over forty years as she still works late into the evening at Wesley House helping just one more victim with one more problem. The impact of Nell Grissom's service is reflected in the countless people from all walks of life who can testify about the healing Nell Grissom has brought to their lives and their families. She has made her community, her state, and her country a better place through her efforts and I am proud to call her a daughter of Mississippi.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BOROUGH OF KENHORST

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Borough of Kenhorst in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The residents of Cumru Township, upset with what they described as an exorbitant streetlight tax, a lack of fire and police protection, and a lack of street improvement, decided to secede from the Township to create their own municipality, thereby resulting in the establishment of the Borough of Kenhorst nearly 75 years ago.

Its name is of most interesting origins. Along New Holland Road to the south of the proposed borough was a large estate owned by the Horst family. Along Lancaster Avenue was a large farm operated by the Kendall family, also known as Kendall Park. Consequently, the founders decided to combine both names and Kenhorst Borough was thereby incorporated on August 25, 1931.

The Borough remains largely residential, but has recently seen expansion along the two main thoroughways—New Holland Road and Lancaster Avenue—because of the community's outstanding beauty and quality of life. Today, the Borough is considered one of the premier communities in Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Borough of Kenhorst on its 75th anniversary and recognizing the service of a multitude of citizens who worked tirelessly to establish, promote, and grow the Borough to become the exemplary community it is today.

IN TRIBUTE TO CORA WALKER:
LAWYER WHO BROKE RACIAL
GROUND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cora Walker, a just woman whose sincere determination and resolve not only helped change the way law became practiced in New York but also helped diversify its practitioners. Ms. Cora Walker who is recognized as being one of the first black women to practice law in the state of New York, succumbed to cancer at her Manhattan home on July 20, 2006. As a living example of an individual who defied the odds, Ms. Walker walked the path less traveled, opening it up for many others to follow.

Born in Charlotte in 1922, to William and Benetta Jones Walker, Ms. Walker was one of 9 children. Ms. Walker's family, at that time like most Southern families, wanted a life beyond the laws of segregation and Jim Crow. Their search for the American dream carried them to the Bronx. The new life in New York, however, brought unexpected changes, the biggest one being the sudden divorce of her parents. The separation of her parents, created a financial burden for the entire family

leaving her mother and her siblings dependent on public assistance. Although this incident proved to be tragic, just like the saying goes, "only the most beautiful flowers bloom in adversity," Ms. Walker emerged from this hardship as the main provider and supporter of the family, eventually getting her family off of welfare.

Ms. Walker earned her bachelors degree and law degree in a special 6-year program in which students earned both a bachelors and law degree. She is recognized as being the first African-American woman to graduate from the St. John's University School of Law in 1946. Recognizing the disparity between the number of black and white lawyers, Ms. Walker spent much of her career working for the National Bar Association, the organization of Black lawyers formed to support the advancement of Blacks in the progression and helped found the Associations Counsel Conference, an annual meeting that helped black lawyers cultivate relationships with corporate clients. It is through her work within this organization and others that gave her the skills to become the first woman to serve as president of the Harlem Lawyers Association.

Although she was admitted to the Bar in 1947, the color of her skin still proved to be the only measure being used to judge her capabilities and worth. A woman who defied so many odds, who found the self-will within, to do the unthinkable, whose courage should have been commended, was still black. Sadly, the only position offered to her was the position to be the firms' secretary. Unwilling to write the story of a woman who came, fought the great battle and lost, she decided to re-write history with her own thoughts utilizing her own gifts.

Her efforts culminated in the establishment of her own firm. Although she ran unsuccessfully for the New York Senate in 1958 and 1964, she was recognized at that time as being one of the most powerful leaders in Harlem. Her legacy rings true even today. Not only does the African American community mourn her loss, but all the lives she touched by being a symbol for justice everywhere as well feel her loss.

I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the obituary published in the New York Times on July 24, 2006. She has truly left her mark on our society and she will always be remembered for that. As the percentages of African American lawyers continue to increase across the country, we must acknowledge the pioneers whose contributions to justice and equality made the opportunities we have today a reality.

[From the New York Times, July 20, 2006]

CORA WALKER, 84, DIES; LAWYER WHO BROKE RACIAL GROUND
(By Margalit Fox)

Cora T. Walker, a prominent New York lawyer who nearly 60 years ago became one of the first black women to practice law in the state, died last Thursday at her home in Manhattan. She was 84.

The cause was cancer, said her son Lawrence R. Bailey Jr., a lawyer, who practiced with his mother for many years.

For decades, Ms. Walker ran a private practice in Harlem, first on 125th Street and later from a restored brownstone at 270 Lenox Avenue. From 1976 until her retirement in 1999, she was the senior partner in Walker & Bailey, one of the city's few black law firms, which she established with her son.

The firm's practice eventually included corporate clients like Conrail, the Ford Motor Company, Texas Instruments and Kentucky Fried Chicken. But Ms. Walker continued drawing up wills and preparing personal-injury claims for the men and women she described as the "plain, ordinary, not elegant people" of her Harlem community.

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

Cora Thomasina Walker was born on June 20, 1922, in Charlotte, N.C., one of nine children of William and Benetta Jones Walker. The family moved to the Bronx when she was a child. When she was an adolescent, her parents separated, leaving her, her mother and her siblings dependent on public assistance.

After graduating from James Monroe High School in the Bronx, Ms. Walker promptly informed the Welfare Department that their help was no longer required; she would support the family. She took a night job as a teletype operator with Western Union and also sold Christmas cards.

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

For much of her career, Ms. Walker was active in the National Bar Association, a historically black organization. She helped found the association's Corporate Counsel Conference, an annual meeting sponsored by its commercial law section. Begun in 1988, the conference helps black lawyers cultivate relationships with corporate clients.

In the 1960s, Ms. Walker became the first woman to serve as president of the Harlem Lawyers Association.

Ms. Walker's marriage, to Lawrence R. Bailey Sr., a lawyer, ended in divorce. In addition to her son Lawrence Jr., of the Bronx, she is survived by another son, Bruce E. Bailey, a physician, of Norwich, Conn.; a sister, Danetta Black, formerly of White Plains; and three grandchildren.

In 1947, when Ms. Walker was admitted to the New York bar, she found the doors of the city's law firms tightly shut. (One firm rented and offered her a position—as a secretary.) So she struck out on her own.

Her first client was an undertaker, for whom she did collections. Before long, by dint of reading self-improvement books, Ms. Walker had learned to "join everything, give everybody a card, join a political club," as she told The New York Times in 1989.

In 1999, the New York County Lawyers' Association installed a plaque outside the Lenox Avenue brownstone where Ms. Walker had her office, commemorating her half-century in the law. The building has since been sold, her son said, and the plaque is now gone.

KC-135 REPLACEMENT PROGRAM TECHNOLOGY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, it is more important than ever that our military have the best technologies available in their weapon systems and equipment. The tremendous

strides that have been made in the area of technology have allowed us to do more with less. With a smaller force, it becomes imperative to provide the best technology and the best capabilities to our warfighters.

Our front line systems require cutting edge technologies to preserve the maximum advantage over our adversaries. It is important that we remain mindful of this as we look to the KC-135 Tanker replacement aircraft the Air Force is scheduled to purchase. We would be ill advised to disregard the technologies available in the aircraft being offered, as this aircraft will be in our inventory for decades.

This KC-X competition involves an older aircraft and a newer one. Old technology built today is still old, and offers little in the competitive environment. Retrofitting add-on technologies into older aircrafts' cockpits and elsewhere are costly modifications that offer only a partial solution to acquiring the best available aircraft.

Instead, the Air Force should consider the value of buying the latest, proven generation of commercial aircraft with modern technology already integrated into the platform. In closing, I believe we must procure the most advanced technology available for this aircraft to both accomplish the mission and to ensure the highest level of performance over its service life. The Air Force has a clear opportunity to procure the most advanced aircraft for the KC-X and our warfighters deserve no less.

CELEBRATING THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Franklin Special School District. For a century this district has served as a shining example of quality in public school education.

FSSD is recognized within the State of Tennessee and nationally for excellence. It has received straight A's in the 2005 Tennessee State Report Card which is based on student achievement and academic gains. The faculty and staff have demonstrated incredible dedication to the mission of educating students. That's something we all ought to applaud.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the parents and students of the FSSD. I also ask my colleagues to join me in sending a special thanks to Dr. David Snowden, Director of Schools and the Franklin Special School District teachers and staff for educating the leaders of tomorrow. We wish them all the best in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RICK RIERA, "SEEKER AND DEFENDER OF FREEDOM"

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great soldier and a great

American, Colonel Rick R. Riera, who is giving up command next week at Fort Benning, GA, the "Home of the Infantry."

Colonel Riera was born on June 4, 1959 in Matanzas, Cuba. At the tender age of nine years old, he and his family fled the Communist government and were granted political asylum in this country. They were flown via a Liberty Flight to Miami, Florida, where Colonel Riera grew up.

Riera was admitted to the United States Military Academy and in 1981 graduated and reported for training at Fort Benning. After his initial training, he was assigned as a Rifle and Scout Platoon Leader on the Demilitarized Zone in Korea.

During his career, Colonel Riera has served in six Infantry Regiments (8th, 15th, 18th, 23rd, 30th, and 75th) and four Infantry Divisions (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 24th). His service highlights have included assignments as a Ranger Rifle Platoon Leader during the invasion of Grenada, command of two mechanized Infantry companies in Germany during the Cold War, and command of the Infantry's first M2A3 Bradley Battalion during the Division Capstone Exercise.

Staff experience consists of duty as a Battalion S-3, Battalion XO, Brigade S-4, Brigade S-3, and Brigade XO with the Sledgehammer Brigade on Kelley Hill. Colonel Riera also served as the Chief of Crew Training for U.S. Army Europe's New Equipment Training Team during the fielding of Bradleys to the 3rd AD and 2nd ACR. Additionally, he was the first Chief of the Bradley Crew Evaluator Training Team for standardized gunnery at Grafenwoehr.

Joint experience consists of service with J-3 Southern Command in Panama and the Andean Ridge as a counterdrug operations officer at the height of the Drug War against the Medellin and Cali Cartels. Colonel Riera later served as the Army Special Assistant to the Commander in Chief of U.S. Southern Command following its move to Miami, Florida.

In addition to completing Infantry courses here at Fort Benning, he is a graduate of the Regional Studies Course at the J.F.K. Special Warfare Center, the Command and General Staff Course at the U.S. Army School of the Americas, and the Inter-American Defense College. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, and Valorous Unit Award.

Colonel Riera is married to the former Rosario Moreno of San Juan, Puerto Rico. They have two children, Rebeca and Ricky.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Riera is stepping down as the garrison commander at Fort Benning next week, and I stand here to honor him today for his years of service to this Nation. He escaped tyranny in his native land and, with his family, sought freedom and opportunity in America. He found his freedom and is now dedicating every day of his life to protecting it for his children and for each and every one of us. I thank him for his service, particularly his leadership at Fort Benning, and wish him luck in his future assignment at Fort Sam Houston as Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, U.S. Army, South.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. KERLEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American, Robert F. Kerley, who died on July 7, 2006.

Robert Kerley was born and educated in California. He served his country during World War II as a member of General Mark Clark's staff in Italy. After the war he earned his B.S. Degree at the University of California Berkeley, and then began his quarter century career with the University. He was at Berkeley from 1951 until 1964 when he left to become the Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer at the University of Kentucky, and went on to serve as Vice President for Administration and Treasurer at Johns Hopkins. He returned to Berkeley in 1970 and served as Vice Chancellor of Administration until his retirement in 1982. Upon his retirement he received the Berkeley Citation, U.C. Berkeley's highest honor. The California Alumni Association awarded him the Alumni Citation for excellence in service and he was named a Berkeley Fellow in 2003, an honor given to a select group for extraordinary service to the University.

Robert Kerley is survived by his beloved wife Betty whom he met at Berkeley and married in 1975 at the Chancellor's residence. He also leaves his children Kathleen James, Maureen Douglas, Barbara Neill, William Kerley and his step-children Katherine Strehl and William Strehl. He also leaves 10 beloved grandchildren . . . Adriana, Allison, Andrew, Brent, Carolyn, Cecily, Christina, Jake, Joseph and Meredith.

Robert Kerley was a member of the Board of Regents of John F. Kennedy University, a member and Chair of the National Association of Colleges and Universities, as well as a member of the Council on Higher Education. He was a founding member and Chair of the governing board of the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, the first group run by and for people with disabilities, and an advisor to Alta Bates Medical Center.

It has been a personal privilege to have known Mr. Kerley's step-daughter for many years. Her integrity and commitment to public service are an eloquent statement about her, as well as her father.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this good and great American and in extending our deepest sympathy to his family. Robert Kerley contributed greatly to our community and our country, and in doing so, made us a stronger and better nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the House's attention today to pay tribute to the people of Clay County, Alabama, who on August 12, 2006,

will celebrate the centennial anniversary of their county's beautiful and historic Courthouse.

Known across East Alabama as an architectural gem, the Clay County Courthouse was built in 1906 overlooking the square with a Seth Thomas clock. The building has been the site of a number of historic events over the years.

Over the last decade, Clay County citizens have witnessed the ongoing restoration of this beautiful building. In recent years these renovations were completed, helping bring the landmark back to its historic splendor. Today it continues to serve as the county seat in Ashland, Alabama, and features an art gallery, a small museum dedicated to Hugo Black, and a historical display of World War I arms.

The community centennial celebration will occur on Saturday, August 12, where locals will gather for music, food, arts and crafts downtown.

I am delighted to be able to congratulate the people of Clay County at the celebration of this historic milestone, and hope this fine building will continue to serve the people of Alabama well into its next one hundred years. I thank the House for its attention on this important day.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the tens of thousands of men and women serving America's veterans in the VA system. With its establishment as the Veterans Administration on July 21st, 1931, the United States formalized its commitment to providing benefits to America's veterans.

The freedom that we enjoy in the United States exists because of the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have served and protected our nation. Since America's humble beginnings in the Pilgrim colonies, our country has honored the great sacrifice of our veterans by committing to serve them upon their return from duty. Today, the United States provides the most comprehensive system of assistance for veterans of any nation in the world.

Congress must ensure that this tradition of serving veterans remains strong. Many veterans returning from combat in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world have suffered multiple severe injuries, presenting challenges that were unimaginable in past wars. In Minnesota, the Minneapolis VA Medical Center is a leader in the nation in providing the state-of-the-art, life-saving care at its new polytrauma rehabilitation center. These new challenges require that Congress commit to fully funding research and care for these veterans who have given so much in the line of duty.

Nationwide, more than 144,000 returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan have now sought health care with the VA, and it is estimated that one in four Americans are eligible for VA benefits and services. More than

30,000 veterans are waiting in line for their first appointment with the VA, a problem that will only worsen with the growing numbers of returning service men and women. Despite this reality, the Republican budget for Fiscal Year 2007 cuts veterans health care by \$6 billion over the next five years.

In 1944, Congress enacted the original GI Bill of Rights, to honor the Greatest Generation—providing our returning troops with educational benefits, loans to buy a home and medical assistance. In each major military conflict since, we have honored the service of our soldiers through an improved GI bill.

I join my Democratic colleagues in supporting the New GI Bill for the 21st Century to strengthen benefits for our men and women in uniform today, and provide long overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. For those returning from the frontlines, we are continuing our efforts to fight to adequately invest in veterans' health care, including mental health care.

Veterans have earned our respect, whether they served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War or have recently returned from Iraq or Afghanistan. These veterans who fought on the battlefield for freedom and liberty should not have to fight their own government for the benefits they earned and deserve when they return home. Nor should they have to fear that their private information entrusted to the VA is at risk. It is crucial that we continue to increase our dedication to veterans by providing them the services promised to them and we must fulfill our obligations to those who have worn our nation's uniform with not just words, but with deeds.

The 75th anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is an opportunity to salute our brave veterans and dedicated men and women who devote their careers to caring for them. Just as important, it is an opportunity for Congress to reaffirm both the responsibility and a moral obligation to provide the necessary healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of all our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Department of Veterans Affairs, for its 75 years of service to America's veterans.

HARRY BELAFONTE: ACTOR, SINGER, ACTIVIST, AND HUMANITARIAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold George Belafonte, the acknowledged "King of Calypso," and one of the most successful African American pop stars in history. His ingenious assimilation of folk and jazz, with an emphasis on African rhythms and third world theme allowed him to rise to unheard of popularity in the days before the advent of the civil rights era. His album "Calypso" was the first recording in the music industry to sell over one million copies. It set the standards and laid the groundwork that led to his winning the Grammy Award for lifetime achievement in 2000.

The son of Jamaican-born immigrants, Harry Belafonte was born on March 1, 1927, in Harlem, New York. Soon afterwards, his

mother sent him home to Jamaica, where he spent his formative years and early adolescence. His exposure to life on the island and all its variety has been a constant inspiration to him and became the reservoir of his cultural and artistic expression.

After serving in World War II, he returned to New York and became involved in the theater community of New York. His first Broadway musical, John Murray Anderson's "Almanac", won him the coveted Tony Award. The overwhelming success of Carmen Jones, the Oscar Hammerstein adaptation of Bizet's opera "Carmen", made him one of the most sought after African American actors in the history of Hollywood.

He won the Emmy Award for his performance in the television musical epic "Tonight with Belafonte." He is one of the nine winners of the 2006 Impact Award recipients by the AARP magazine. He was the first recipient of the Marcus Garvey Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2000, which created the tradition of honoring humanitarians in the Jamerican Film and Music Festival in the subsequent years. He was also the first to receive the Nelson Mandela Courage Award and was honored with the 1994 National Medal of Arts from President Clinton, as well as numerous other awards and honors. I am awed by the talent of this remarkable man. His success continues to be a great inspiration for African American artists.

Harry Belafonte is a pioneer as an actor and musician and he is equally a committed social activist. A close friend and confidante of Martin Luther King Jr., he was the driving force who mobilized the cultural and artistic community in support of Dr. King's work, leading to their financial support and their personal identification with the needs of the Civil Rights movement. Dr. King himself acknowledged Belafonte's contribution, "Belafonte's global popularity and his commitment to our cause is a key ingredient to the global struggle for freedom and a powerful tactical weapon in the civil rights movement here in America."

In 1987, he accepted the appointment as UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador. The second American to hold this title, he continues to play a vital role in holding special concerts to raise funds and garner support for UNICEF programs, along with his assignments to UNICEF missions. In 1985, he assembled 45 top performers to record the song "We Are the World," raising millions of dollars for emergency aid in Africa.

In 1987, he created a historic symposium in Dakar, Senegal for the immunization of African children, the positive response to which has led to a successful campaign for the eradication of curable diseases among African children. In 1988, he performed a concert in Harare, Zimbabwe, to focus global attention on child survival and development in South African countries, especially those victimized by the apartheid war. In 1989, the U.S. Committee for the UNICEF honored him with the Danny Kaye Award, for his important contribution in service of the children of the world.

Seeing the effects of HIV/AIDS in South Africa firsthand, he launched the Harry & Julie Belafonte Fund for HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa using a U.S. \$100,000 honorarium from the Ronald McDonald House Charities' Award of Excellence. He received the award in 2000 in recognition of his humanitarian work.

Recently he was presented with the Black Entertainment Television (BET) Humanitarian

Award, which he dedicated to Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela, as well as to the poet soldiers of the civil rights activists such as Fannie Lou Hamer. "I had a mission to overthrow oppression," he said in his speech honoring social activists all over the world.

Harry Belafonte has been a harsh critic of U.S. foreign policy, opposing the embargo on Cuba, the war on Iraq, as well as condemning the Bush administration for refusing aid from Venezuela and Cuba in the aftermath of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. He has taken a strong position against the spying on American citizens sanctioned by the USA PATRIOT Act and conducted by the Bush Administration outside of the law.

His calling President Bush as the "biggest terrorist in the world," has created controversy and made him unacceptable to some, but he shows little concern over the reaction to his words because he sees the need to speak the truth as he sees it.

He has called upon the American people to demand their constitutional rights from the government. Instead of spending billions of taxpayer dollars abroad in a needless war, he suggested that we should focus on reforming our broken social security and Medicare system to ensure social benefits for our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor this remarkable man for all his achievements and for what he continues to do for civil rights and as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF.

On behalf of all of us, and in recognition of Harry Belafonte's extraordinary career, I declare that:

(1) Harry Belafonte is as popular among White audiences as Black audiences, shattering the traditional divisions between Black and White music. Whether plaintive or rousing, the music of Harry Belafonte transforms the everyday lives, pain, and joy of the common people into songs that resonated with and inspired people of all nationalities, races, and classes.

(2) His multiracial appeal enhanced the movement toward racial equality and increased understanding and tolerance across racial boundaries during the Civil Rights movement.

(3) As a supporter of that Movement, he performed benefit concerts and provided additional financial support to causes led by his friend, Rev. Martin Luther King.

(4) His activism and search for justice extends beyond the borders of the U.S. as evidenced by his strong opposition to the apartheid system in South Africa as well as his contribution as a Goodwill Ambassador for the UNICEF.

(5) Harry Belafonte, at this point in his career, is an immensely respected and dazzling figure in American culture and is equally esteemed and admired as a fighter against injustice at home and abroad.

WE MUST RESOLVE THE ETHIOPIA-ERITREA BORDER DISPUTE

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I return to the Floor today to call the attention of the House and the American people to what

may become the next tragedy in Africa: the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Since I was last here, I have heard renewed pleas from my constituents who remember the heartbreak and irreplaceable loss from the 1998–2000 war over the border that cost the lives of as many as 100,000 people.

To avoid a repeat of this tragedy, the President and the Secretary of State must rally the world community to achieve a peaceful resolution to this matter.

I cosponsored CHRIS SMITH's legislation, H.R. 4423, the Ethiopia Consolidation Act, which would advance human rights in the Horn of Africa, and link U.S. foreign aid assistance to full compliance with the Algiers Agreement. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

As I said the last time I was here, we must see to it that the tragedy of last decade is not repeated.

CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that, today, we would have passed the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Educational Improvement Act. It is unfortunate that, yet again, we have not been able to muster enough support to discuss the vitality of Vocational and Technical Education in our country. Education has always been the golden key to a democracy. Our forefathers realized this, and we must realize this as we continue to move forward into this information age. There is no excuse, in this day and age, for a government to be derelict in its duties to provide education and opportunity to its citizens. It is even more important today, as jobs dwindle from the bombardment of cheap foreign competition, to realize that the welfare of our nation rests upon the shoulders of the educated and skilled laborers. The Carl D. Perkins Act is a giant step in realizing our duty, as Congress, to Americans. It is a pathway that guides the vast resources of America to the Americans who need them.

It is not a coincidence that Illinois and twenty-two other States were awarded incentive grants from the Department of Education in 2003 for exceeding their performance level—our programs are working, but they need to be improved. With an unemployment level of 4.5 percent in Illinois and 4.6 percent throughout United States, it is essential for us to work now to create comprehensive plans to prepare our youth and adults for the future, by building their academic and technical skills.

Furthermore, we must not stop with youth and adult education and job training; we must expand the discussion of education an job opportunities to other Americans—those who are incarcerated and who will later be released. It has been reported that 62 percent of those individuals released from state prisons will be rearrested within three years. If we do not tackle this dire issue with real solutions we will have silently condoned a vicious cycle that destroys communities.

As we begin our recess, it is important to recognize that we can no longer afford to put the discussion of education on the back burn-

er. It is, and always will be, one of my top priorities.

RECOGNIZING RUBY FRANCES MYRICK WILSON

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize a Mississippian who has given a century of service to her family, friends and community. She has been a wife of sixty-six years, a mother of seven children, and wonderful Christian woman. Next month, she turns one-hundred years old, but the light in her eyes and the good works of her hands continue to love and bless her neighbors.

Ruby Frances Myrick Wilson was born August 30, 1906 to James Wilson Myrick and Myrtle Rebecah Alderman Myrick. She studied at Otoe Elementary School, was in the first graduating class of Stringer High School in 1924, attended Mississippi Southern Teachers' College in Hattiesburg and Clarke College in Newton, as well as Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel. She took her teaching certificate and taught fourth grade at Polkville and third grade at Fellowship Community in Jasper County. She married a farmer named William Judson Wilson and reared seven children together for sixty-six years until his death.

She is still actively engaged in house-keeping, cooking, gardening, reading and studying, quilting, sewing, and crafting. She cooks special dishes for shut-ins, church and community socials, and special needs diets. She creates gift baskets filled with her baked breads, cookies, relishes, preserves, and jellies. She cuts flowers from her garden to make arrangements for special occasions. She grows plants to put into decorated pots for gifts. The hallmark of Ruby's talents is quilting and she has made over a hundred for newly weds, graduates, babies, and crisis victims.

Mr. Speaker, Ruby is thoughtful and careful to feed her mind, body and soul; keeping active and balancing a strong body and her strong faith. Her commitment to the Word of God and her saving Lord has given her purpose and her life's strength. I've known her family my whole life and she has been a blessing to them, her community, her friends and everyone she comes in contact with. I hope this Congress joins me in wishing her a very happy one-hundredth birthday and praying she has many years with the Mississippi she so loves and serves.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5932: FARM RISK MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I introduced legislation yesterday, along with my Alabama colleagues Representatives JO BONNER and MIKE ROGERS, to enable America's farmers to better manage the risk to their livelihoods in times of severe weather and skyrocketing energy costs. The Farm Risk Management Act (FARM Act) would create risk management accounts, using both USDA and individual

farmer contributions, to reduce the financial impact of disasters on the agriculture community. The FARM Act would allow farmers to insure their income by creating a whole-farm risk management program based on total revenues from all their farming activities. This is a departure from the current crop insurance program, which provides coverage based on a specific commodity. The new risk management account goes beyond the scope of current crop insurance by allowing farmers to withdraw funds from their accounts to help offset any unforeseen farm expense including high energy or fertilizer costs. With my new proposal, a farmer would deposit money into the new risk management account. The U.S. Department of Agriculture would then match the farmer's contribution in this tax-deferred, interest bearing account, rather than subsidizing a portion of the crop insurance premium for the farmer as is done presently. As a result, farmers would effectively be self insured.

More and more, we are seeing farmers lose their farms due to the unfortunate combination of increasingly harsh weather, rising operational costs and a Federal crop insurance program that is too expensive to help many cover their losses. Recent Farm Bill hearings and subsequent meetings I have had with farmers in the Southeast have led me to the conclusion that current crop insurance programs are not working. The present system is too expensive, leaving many farmers exposed to uncontrollable risks. It also allows room for fraud which only serves to drive up program costs for everyone.

There is an urgent need for significant crop insurance reform that will offer hardworking farmers the tools they need to manage the unique risks involved in agricultural production. With the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization, we have a chance to address this critical issue, and I am offering this legislation to advance debate. This approach of individual risk management accounts could address many of the problems associated with the current crop insurance system and save the Federal Government money by alleviating the future need for ad hoc disaster assistance. Most importantly, it will give farmers struggling against natural forces beyond their control greater flexibility to make a living while performing the vital task of putting food on America's table.

HONORING WILSON BATISTA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow at the passing of one of the Dominican community's most beloved young musicians, Wilson Batista.

On June 18, the world lost 29-year-old classical pianist Wilson Batista to a sudden brain aneurism. At the time of his death, he was attending the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied under with internationally recognized pianist Philip Kawin.

Born in the Dominican Republic, but raised in Washington Heights, Wilson came from a

family that worked hard to fund his early music education. Those efforts and Wilson's inherent talents helped turn the child prodigy into an internationally renowned classical pianist.

Eager to listen to the youngster in concert, the excitement over Wilson's early success opened the world of classical music to new fans of all ages and classes. He would go on to amass numerous distinctions, including winning the top prize at the Luis Ferre International Concerto Competition and earning performances at places like New York's Carnegie Hall, Puerto Rico's Centro de Bellas Artes, and el Gran Teatro del Cibao in the Dominican Republic.

While he performed around the world, Wilson was never too far away from New York and his Dominican traditions. He was a shining example of the best that our community can produce and an example to our youth that any dream is possible, in any field or industry.

My heartfelt condolences go to his family, friends and colleagues. Though saddened by not being able to see this young man reach his full potential, we are all blessed to have enjoyed his talent during his brief time here on earth.

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION
OF THE VILLAGE COMMONS
COMMUNITY CENTER AT FORT
CAMPBELL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the opening of the Village Commons Community Center at Fort Campbell in my district in Tennessee.

This is a great day for so many of our military families. We know our service men and women face many challenges as they work to defend America. That's why this new facility with an exercise room, amphitheater, and coffee shop to name just a few features is so important. It adds to the quality of life in a very fundamental way.

To date this is one of the most extensive military housing programs developed through the cooperation of the Department of Defense and private donors. It's a real credit to the Fort Campbell community that this project has been completed.

An element of this effort I especially want to note though is the addition of a wheelchair accessible playground. Mr. Speaker, this will give those soldiers wounded while defending our country the opportunity to spend time with their children. I know that will mean so much to them and all of us are grateful this program is now a reality.

PRAISE OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT
PASSAGE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of the hard work of our colleagues here in the House and the Senate for

extending for another twenty-five years the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act. I thank the President for signing the bill into law yesterday. In addition, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of those individuals whose work has ensured that the tradition of its creators is not forgotten.

It was the combined efforts of civil rights leaders—activists like Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and both Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King Jr.; political leaders in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations; and our esteemed colleague, JOHN LEWIS, who put his life on the line when he crossed the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama on Bloody Sunday—these are some of the people who made the Voting Rights Act a reality. It is in the memory of their political courage and stewardship of democracy that I joined with my colleagues to ensure its continuation.

What we have seen in the past months is another pivotal step toward the realization of Dr. King's dream for an equal America. From my own work with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, I understand many of the obstacles Dr. King faced in overcoming adversity for the disenfranchised. I am honored and humbled to be one of many to continue what he worked so hard to begin.

The right to vote is among the most sacred of freedoms. Dr. King is just one of many Americans who paid the ultimate price, so that all can have a voice. The Voting Rights Act honors that tradition by ensuring that all Americans have equal access to the ballot box and refusing to allow discrimination of the past to be a part of our future.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress has made its will and that of the country known. We have ensured that all Americans will continue to have a voice and generations to come will go on to make Dr. King's dream of an equal America a reality.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA GREGORY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman and distinguished labor leader, Linda Gregory, on the occasion of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council honoring her at their Annual COPE Banquet on August 18, 2006.

Linda Gregory was born in Seattle, Washington and as a young child moved with her family to Sacramento, California, where she was raised in a working class family. When she was 18, Linda married Richard, and together they had four children: Robyn, Aaron, Sarah, and Benjamin.

Mrs. Gregory's passion for social reform began early in life when her husband, a Sacramento social worker, went on strike. At the time, there was no law that recognized public employee unions or the right to collectively bargain. Richard and 300 other employees lost their jobs, and this experience had a profound effect on the rest of the Gregory's personal and professional lives.

In 1968, Linda began her career in the public sector. She first worked as a junior clerk for

Santa Clara County where she became an active member in SEIU Local 715.

Linda Gregory rose through the ranks at SEIU Local 715. She began as a Shop Steward which motivated her involvement with political action. Because of her exceptional leadership abilities, she became an officer of the local union and she was later hired as a Research Director.

In 1975, Linda Gregory began working as a Business Agent for AFSCME Council 57. She has held the position of Associate Director for decades, representing public employees working for the County, City and hospitals. Throughout her AFSCME career Linda Gregory has not only represented employees, she has also negotiated hundreds of contracts and conducted strategic planning meetings for AFSCME local unions throughout Northern California.

One of her greatest achievements while working for AFSCME was the comparable pay campaign. The goal of the campaign was to provide equal pay to people with different job titles based on their value to their employer, regardless of any gender predominance in such positions. Because of Linda Gregory's leadership, dedication and hard work, California public employees were the first in the nation to earn comparable pay for comparable work.

Linda Gregory has devoted almost three decades of her life to helping the American worker. In addition to her position at Council 57, she is also the President of the San Mateo Labor Council where she has been active for over twenty years and held an executive position since the late 1970's.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a national treasure, an exemplary American and a special friend. As the San Mateo County Central Labor Council celebrates the achievements of Linda Gregory at their 27th Annual C.O.P.E. banquet, we extend to her our best wishes as well as our gratitude for all she has accomplished for our region, our nation, and the American worker. Her leadership has set the gold standard for workers, and because of her enlightened leadership, we are a better community and a stronger country.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT P.
KASSIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Robert P. Kassin, 29, born in Flint, Michigan, died on July 16, 2006, in Afghanistan. Sergeant Kassin was assigned to the Army's C Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and according to initial reports was killed due to injuries when his dismounted patrol came under small arms fire. His survivors include his wife Judy; his two step-daughters; his son; and his mother and father Robert Joseph and Lucia Kassin of Clovis, New Mexico.

Robert Kassin was a proud father and husband, and from a young age expressed a desire to serve his country in uniform. Like all soldiers, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sergeant Kassin died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality, and usefulness of health information technology:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today disappointed that I must oppose the Republican Health Care Information Technology Promotion Act. Developing and implementing a health information technology system that reflects the needs of patients and providers should be a priority for Congress and should be an issue that can be handled in a bipartisan manner. Unfortunately, once again the Republican Majority has rejected common-sense and strong public policy and instead chosen to support a sham piece of legislation that even the Congressional Budget Office states will "not significantly affect either the rate at which the use of health technology will grow or how well that technology will be designed and implemented".

Information Technology (IT) reform would help decrease medical mistakes and would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our health care system. However, we must work hard to strike the delicate balance between increasing use of electronic medical records and maintaining individuals' privacy. It is critical that we ensure patients' personal health information is secure and confidential when they go to the doctor or check into a hospital.

The Health Information Technology Promotion Act would codify the Office of the Health Information Technology Coordinator within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—basically maintaining the status quo. This legislation fails to contain adequate funding for providers to implement EMR, it fails to provide for interoperability of system, it fails to address patient privacy protections, and could unfortunately open new opportunities for fraud and abuse by providing waivers for anti-fraudback laws.

Congress must find a way to move forward with the implementation of health technology and protect the American public. For this reason, I supported the Dingell-Rangel substitute. This amendment included grants for providers, opportunities to leverage private dollars, strong patient protections and it maintains our anti-fraud laws. In addition, this proposal is

nearly identical to the legislation that has already passed the Senate unanimously. Unfortunately, the Republican Majority is so unwilling to have a full and open discussion about our health care system on the House floor, that this amendment was not even allowed to be considered during today's debate.

I oppose H.R. 4157 and urge my colleagues to do the same. Lets reject this do-nothing legislation and have a real debate about the health care challenges facing American families.

ZULEYKA RIVERA MENDOZA WINS THE FIFTH MISS UNIVERSE TITLE FOR PUERTO RICO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the achievements of Zuleyka Rivera Mendoza, a young lady whose determination and perseverance have achieved the honor of being Miss Puerto Rico in the Miss Universe pageant and then the big prize, the Miss Universe 2006 title.

Born October 3, 1987, in Cayey, Puerto Rico at 3:47 p.m., this talented young lady of only 18 years of life, brought an incredible joy to the people of Puerto Rico the night of July 23, 2006, after winning the Miss Universe 2006 Pageant, held in Los Angeles, CA.

As a child growing up in Salinas, Zuleyka showed great interest in sports. At five she played football and by seven she was a member of a basketball team. But, her sporting days were over as soon as she won the title of "Queen of Hearts" in middle school. Her mother quickly recognized the talent given to her child and enrolled her in an academy for aspiring models. At fourteen, she was the first runner-up in the Miss Puerto Rico Teen Pageant, the same year she became the image of a local fashion magazine.

Zuleyka graduated from high school in Guayama, Puerto Rico, where she was president of the 2004 graduating class and part of the honor roll. Up until the pageant, she lived with her parents, Carmen M. Mendoza and Jerry Rivera, and her younger siblings, Jerry Jesús (12) and José Alberto (10), in Parcelas Vázquez, a small community in Salinas, Puerto Rico. Prior to winning the Miss Universe 2006 Pageant she was a freshman at the University of Puerto Rico, majoring in communications.

600 million people in 180 countries around the world witnessed the moment in which Miss Puerto Rico, Zuleyka Rivera Mendoza, was crowned with 120 pearls and 800 diamonds as Miss Universe 2006. She will now live in New York and travel the world in an effort to eradicate AIDS, these being part of her duties as Miss Universe 2006. After the pageant, Zuleyka wishes to fulfill her dream of becoming an actress, while always making the Puerto Rican community proud of her achievements.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE THOMAS KENNEDY

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as my father approaches his 80th birthday, I would like to share with my colleagues how he has brightened the lives of so many with his conversational Irish wit, passion for life and genuine interest in other people.

Eugene Thomas Kennedy descended from immigrants who came from Ireland at the time of the potato famine. They settled for a period in Kentucky and Illinois before pioneering Minnesota in 1863. The Kennedy's originally settled in what today is called Savage, Minnesota, then called Hamilton Falls, later settling in Decorah Township near St. Clair, south of Mankato, before moving to Murdock at the turn of the century.

Eugene was born August 22, 1926 to Charles, a businessman and longtime mayor of Murdock, Minnesota and Rose, the daughter of a Swift County Commissioner Joe Cannon. Joe Cannon's name is inscribed on the 1890's Swift County Courthouse in Benson, Minnesota that issued the birth certificates for both my father and me. Eugene grew up and initially raised his own family in the home that his parents built right across the street from the Sacred Heart Church in Murdock, where I was baptized. His family sat every Sunday near his grandfather Francis Kennedy's stained glass window just across from the front pew at Sacred Heart. Eugene graduated from Murdock High School in 1944, took some courses at the University of Minnesota and a junior accounting course at Mankato Commercial College.

His father and grandfather taught Eugene to face adversities head on. His grandfather became blind when he was my age, but kept informed by having his son, Charles, read him the paper every day and later, even though blind and in his 70's, moved his family to Murdock, Minnesota for more land for his children. His father Charles took over the livery stable in Murdock. During the pneumonia epidemic of 1918 that killed more people than any war, as liveryman he courageously transported and assisted Murdock's doctor to aid the ill. When the automobile put his livery out of business, Charles did not seek a government handout, he started trucking livestock instead. Later in his life, Eugene tackled adversity head on himself.

As the youngest of four sons, Eugene was a self-proclaimed momma's boy. He learned to cook a few dishes growing up in the kitchen with Rose. The country wisdom he gained participating in many kitchen table conversations with the neighbors shaped his life. Rose was a woman of action. She went to see her Maker in action—weeding her garden, something she loved to do, but not before instilling in her descendants a belief that it is noble to tend not just your own garden, but also your corner of the world, so the community's flowers might also blossom. Eugene took up his hoe to cultivate a more bountiful harvest in the community he adopted to raise his family—Pequot Lakes.

On September 21st of last year, commemorating my mother's 75th birthday, I spoke of

my parents meeting and raising their children and will not repeat that today, but I will share with you the many things that my father taught his children and grandchildren.

Eugene built on his parent's commitment to service. He served on the Pequot Lakes Public School Board for 27 years, including the period when it built an entirely new K-12 campus. He helped lead the committee to build a new church building for St. Alice Catholic Church. He helped my mother found what became the largest 4-H Club in the county. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce's 4th of July Committee, he helped build Pequot's Independence Day celebration into one of Minnesota's best.

He instilled in us a love of work. In 1947, he began working at the First State Bank of Murdock, where he remembers emptying the spittoons and posting the daily numbers in pen and ink in a general ledger as big as the Guttenberg Bible perched on a high desk. Later he worked at banks in Golva and Hunter, North Dakota. Moving to Pequot Lakes in 1961, Eugene joined the independent insurance agency of Farmer's State Bank, later Lakeland State Bank. The six employees there shared one telephone and one typewriter. The employees, just like in an old western movie, were barricaded behind bulletproof glass and metal framing. The bank and agency grew rapidly in this resort community.

He taught us to give work your all. You got more than insurance when Eugene was your agent; you got conversation and advice. The president of a large Minnesota company fondly remembers getting car insurance as a kid from Eugene. Eugene patiently explained why the insurance on his old beater of a car cost more than the car itself. He really appreciated the way Eugene was genuinely interested in him and took the time to simplify the mysteries of insurance for a teenager.

He exhibited to his own children the need to meet adversity head on. Just before his retirement from the bank insurance agency in Pequot Lakes, the FDIC came in one Friday afternoon, shut the bank down, and reopened it on Monday as a different bank. Having lost his pension and with three of his seven kids still at home and two more still in college, he started anew. At age 65, he took his experience of inspecting properties for insurance purposes, became a Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser and started a business as a real estate appraiser, where he still works today with two employees.

He taught us to listen. They say that everyone can brighten up a room, some when they enter, some when they leave. My father brightens up a room when he enters, and then never leaves. Some leave without saying goodbye, my father says goodbye without leaving. We were always the last to leave church every Sunday.

My father taught us his trademark handshake that he learned from his co-worker at his first job. He passes on his technique to all his grandkids—reach out your hand, lean forward, look them in the eye with a smile on your face and give a firm handshake. It is nearly impossible for a visitor to attend St. Alice Catholic Church in Pequot without meeting Eugene Kennedy. Whenever I met people in a three county area, the response often was, "Oh, you're Gene's boy."

He demonstrated to us a love of family and those whom others ignored. Eugene had two

elderly first cousins, sisters who never married and lived together in St. Paul—Fran and Mugs Kenney. They both served in the military during World War II and both worked for West Publishing. My father made a special point of visiting them regularly and encouraged us to do so as well. With so many children in our family, major events sometimes were everyday occurrences. But, I will still never forget Debbie and I calling our parents to tell them that we were getting married. After talking with my mother, who was very excited, I ask my father if he had any comments. His only comment was, "Have you seen Fran and Mugs recently?" Clearly, taking time to spend with seniors and other often overlooked people was a key value he instilled.

He passed down a love our Irish heritage. Kennedys are generally descended from Brian Boru who defeated the Vikings in the Battle of Clontarf in 1041, becoming the first king to unite all Ireland. My father and I were both born in a rural Minnesota town made up almost entirely of those of Irish descent. Murdock's sports teams were called the Irish. It was a rare treat to be able to go in 1982 with him, my mother and my wife on the first trip to Ireland by a Kennedy since Francis Kennedy came to America from Ireland in 1848. Even though my children are less Irish than I, they and their generation still inherited Eugene's infectious love of the Irish.

He taught us to love America. Our family has two family days of obligation, when Kennedy's make every effort to return home—Christmas Eve and the 4th of July—the birthdays of our God and our Country. The 4th of July is a very personal holiday for our family. My father never made much money, but he was proud of his country, proud of his community, Pequot Lakes, in the heart of Minnesota's lakes country, and proud of his family. And the 4th of July, when tourists headed to Pequot area lakes, is a celebration of all three for our family. My father was in charge of the 4th of July celebration at Pequot Lakes for many years and we children were often roped in to help. A few years back, we all gathered to watch the parade and it was pouring rain, but the parade went on. I will never forget seeing my father sitting in his lawn chair after all the prep work was done, at our customary spot just down from the reviewing stand on the flatbed trailer, with his cowboy hat on that my mother had tried repeatedly to take from him, sopping wet, surrounded by his seven kids and 27 grandkids, watching the parade go by—the bands, the beauty queens, and then standing up and putting his hand over his heart as the veterans came marching down the street carrying the stars and stripes with the biggest smile I can ever remember seeing on him. My father's infectious spirit taught us to live the spirit of the 4th of July every day—family, community, a strong America and Freedom.

He imparted on us the importance of prayer. We regularly knelt down as a family to say the Rosary, often upstairs by our family's shrine to the Infant Jesus of Prague. When my Hereford cows Priscilla and Modesty got out and could not be found, I distinctly remember praying with him to St. Jude, the patron Saint of lost causes, and thankfully they were found. You can often find my father praying a Rosary by his bed early in the morning when you wake up, or if left alone for any period of time riding in a car. I fondly remember him coming into

our bedroom when we were young and saying nightly prayers with my three brothers and me who shared a bedroom.

Eugene Kennedy has been recognized for his community service on a number of occasions, including receiving the Big Heart Community Award in 1988, where people voted at the Northern National Bank on their choice to receive the award and being named Outstanding Senior Citizen for Crow Wing County. This year he also received a statewide appraiser's award and recognition by the Minnesota Independent Insurance Agents for a lifetime of achievement. Eugene continues to be active in the community, starting a 50+ Club at St. Alice and serving on the advisory board for the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Finally, on a lighthearted note, my father taught us to love dessert. Every dinner had to have dessert, even if that meant sharing a can of pears. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, I would like to recognize that my father's life has indeed been dessert for so many people who upon meeting him get a break from having to eat their vegetables and relish in his rich sense of humor and focused attention on them. Happy Birthday, Dad!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast vote on the following legislative measures on July 17 and July 18. If I was present for rollcall votes for the following bills:

375 On motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H. Res. 3085—To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes.

376 On motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H. Res. 3496—To amend the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 to authorize additional Federal contributions for maintaining and improving the transit system of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and for other purposes

377 On motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended H. Res. 3729—Federal Judiciary Emergency Tolling Act

378 On passage H.J. Res. 88—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage

379 On motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3504—Fetus Farming Prohibition Act

380 On motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2754—Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act

381 On motion to suspend the rules and agree H. Res. 498—Supporting the goals and ideals of School Bus Safety Week

I would have voted "yeas" on Nos. 375, 376, 377, 379, 381.

I would have voted "nays" on Nos. 378, 380.

RAISE WAGES, NOT WALLS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD an opinion editorial from the July 25, New York Times entitled "Raise Wages, Not Walls" by former Governor and Democratic Presidential candidate Michael S. Dukakis and Daniel J.B. Mitchell in which the columnists openly criticize the current two primary policy approaches to illegal immigration, one being the erection of a wall along the Mexican border and the other being a temporary workers program. The apparent inefficiencies and problems inherent in both approaches have helped confirm that the raising of the minimum wage is the best and most efficient alternative.

It is a mistake to assume that the erection and maintenance of a wall will ever stop the influx of immigrants across American borders. Walls rarely work. Spending billions to erect something akin to the Berlin Wall is simply unnecessary, especially at a time when millions of Americans are unemployed. The approach by the Senate is also not very realistic. It created the temporary workers program, but requires employers first to attempt to recruit Americans to fill job openings. Also, its success is dependent on the creation and distribution of a costly national identification card. The cost for producing such a card for the 150 million people currently in the labor force—and the millions more who will seek work in the near future—extends to billions of dollars.

The time to raise the minimum wage is now. More States are raising their minimum wages, pushing hourly rates above \$8 in some and shrinking the role of the Federal minimum wage, which hasn't gone up since 1997. It is difficult for Americans to work and sustain themselves with this wage. For full-time work, it doesn't even come close to the poverty line for an individual, let alone provide a family with a living wage. As a result, many immigrants are filling in the gaps left over by Americans, often working for minimum and sub-minimum earnings.

The minimum wage has already proven helpful to former welfare recipients who are entering the workforce. A study of a 1999 State minimum wage increase in Oregon found that as many as one-half of the welfare recipients entering the workforce in 1998 were likely to have received a raise due to the increase. After the increase, the real hourly starting wages for former welfare recipients rose to \$7.23.

If we want to reduce illegal immigration, we must reduce the number of low paying jobs that fuels it. By raising the minimum wage, more Americans would be more willing to work in what is currently considered low paying jobs, denying them to people who aren't supposed to be here in the first place.

I enter into the RECORD the New York Times opinion editorial written by Governor Michael S. Dukakis and Daniel J.B. Mitchell and commend them for including raising minimum wage to the contentious debate concerning how to approach illegal immigration. I believe raising the minimum wage is by far a more effective way to deal with illegal immigration.

[From the New York Times, July 25, 2006]

RAISE WAGES, NOT WALLS

(By Michael S. Dukakis and Daniel J. B. Mitchell)

There are two approaches to illegal immigration currently being debated in Congress. One, supported by the House, emphasizes border control and law enforcement, including a wall along the Mexican border and increased border patrols. The other, which is supported by the Bush administration and has been passed by the Senate, relies on employers to police the workplace. Both proposals have serious flaws.

As opponents of the House plan have rightly pointed out, walls rarely work; illegal immigrants will get around them one way or another. Unless we erect something akin to the Berlin Wall, which would cost billions to build and police, a barrier on the border would be monitored by largely symbolic patrols and easily evaded.

The Senate approach is more realistic but it, too, has problems. It creates a temporary worker program but requires employers first to attempt to recruit American workers to fill job openings. It allows for more border fencing, but makes no effort to disguise the basic futility of the enterprise. Instead, it calls on employers to enforce immigration laws in the workplace, a plan that can only succeed through the creation and distribution of a costly national identification card.

A national ID card raises serious questions about civil liberties, but they are not the sole concern. The cost estimates for producing and distributing a counterfeit-proof card for the roughly 150 million people currently in the labor force—and the millions more who will seek work in the near future—extend into the billions of dollars. Employers would have to verify the identity of every American worker, otherwise the program would be as unreliable as the one in place now. Anyone erroneously denied a card in this bureaucratic labyrinth would be unemployable.

There is a simpler alternative. If we are really serious about turning back the tide of illegal immigration, we should start by raising the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to something closer to \$8. The Massachusetts legislature recently voted to raise the state minimum to \$8 and California may soon set its minimum even higher. Once the minimum wage has been significantly increased, we can begin vigorously enforcing the wage law and other basic labor standards.

Millions of illegal immigrants work for minimum and even sub-minimum wages in workplaces that don't come close to meeting health and safety standards. It is nonsense to say, as President Bush did recently, that these jobs are filled by illegal immigrants because Americans won't do them. Before we had mass illegal immigration in this country, hotel beds were made, office floors were cleaned, restaurant dishes were washed and crops were picked—by Americans.

Americans will work at jobs that are risky, dirty or unpleasant so long as they provide decent wages and working conditions, especially if employers also provide health insurance. Plenty of Americans now work in such jobs, from mining coal to picking up garbage. The difference is they are paid a decent wage and provided benefits for their labor.

However, Americans won't work for peanuts, and these days the national minimum wage is less than peanuts. For full-time work, it doesn't even come close to the poverty line for an individual, let alone provide a family with a living wage. It hasn't been raised since 1997 and isn't enforced even at its currently ridiculous level.

Yet enforcing the minimum wage doesn't require walling off a porous border or trying

to distinguish yesterday's illegal immigrant from tomorrow's "guest worker." All it takes is a willingness by the federal government to inspect workplaces to determine which employers obey the law.

Curiously, most members of Congress who take a hard line on immigration also strongly oppose increasing the minimum wage, claiming it will hurt businesses and reduce jobs. For some reason, they don't seem eager to acknowledge that many of the jobs they claim to hold dear are held by the same illegal immigrants they are trying to deport.

But if we want to reduce illegal immigration, it makes sense to reduce the abundance of extremely low-paying jobs that fuels it. If we raise the minimum wage, it's possible some low-end jobs may be lost; but more Americans would also be willing to work in such jobs, thereby denying them to people who aren't supposed to be here in the first place. And tough enforcement of wage rules would curtail the growth of an underground economy in which both illegal immigration and employer abuses thrive.

Raising the minimum wage and increasing enforcement would prove far more effective and less costly than either proposal currently under consideration in Congress. If Congress would only remove its blinders about the minimum wage, it may see a plan to deal effectively with illegal immigration, too.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS ALFONSE IANNI

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Francis Alfonse Ianni, who is celebrating his 75th birthday this month. Throughout his life he has worked to protect and enhance the well being of the Delaware community and I join so many others in expressing thanks.

Frank began to serve his country at the early age of 13, enlisting in the Delaware State Guard in 1945. He quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the Delaware National Guard, where he served as a Staff Sergeant. He attended Valley Forge Military Academy and was designated as a distinguished, military graduate. In 1954 he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant to the 82nd Airborne division. Overseas, he served in Greenland, West Germany, and two tours in Vietnam. Upon his return, he continued to serve in the army as a Special Assistant for the National Security Council Affairs, and later, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In 1977, he went on to become the Adjunct General of the Delaware National Guard.

His dedication to protecting others transcends well beyond his military service. In 1981 he retired from the Delaware National Guard and accepted the position of Director of the Delaware Office of Highway Safety. While holding this position he was responsible for numerous significant advances in protecting our community, including: the Driving Under the Influence Law, Seat Belt Law, and Child Safety Seat Law. He also initiated the first sobriety checkpoints throughout Delaware, and was responsible for the first Alcohol Awareness Programs conducted around the holidays.

Even after leaving the Office of Highway Safety, Frank continued to be an active and benevolent member of the Delaware community. He taught as an Adjunct Professor at Goldey-Beacom College in Wilmington, teaching courses in business and political science until his retirement in 2000. He has also served on numerous boards including the Delaware Blood Bank and the Delmarva Chapter of the American Red Cross. I congratulate and thank him for his valuable contributions and exemplary record of service on behalf of the State of Delaware. Thank you, for all you have done and continue to do for the people of our State.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ADMINISTRATION PARDONS ACT OF 2006"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, along with several of my colleagues, I am introducing legislation that would require the president to notify Congress upon the pardon of any Executive Branch employee. This notification is necessary because it is possible that the president could pardon an employee of his administration as a means of preventing an investigation from running its course and, perhaps, uncovering information critical of the administration. Without limiting the president's pardon authority under Article II of the Constitution, it is important for purposes of public accountability that Congress and the American public be notified when he does pardon one of his own employees.

The need for this legislation came to light as a result of the Justice Department's investigation into an administration official's leak of CIA officer Valerie Plame Wilson's identity. The indictment of I. Lewis Libby, who was the Vice President's Chief of Staff, for false statements, perjury, and obstruction of justice in connection with the investigation raised concerns that the President might use his authority to pardon Mr. Libby or other officials involved in serious criminal offenses. This is a concern because President George W. Bush refused to respond to a July 25, 2005 letter I sent seeking his assurance that he would not pardon any former or current officials involved in the leak of Valerie Plame Wilson's name. Also, a June 18, 2006 article by Tom Brune of *Newsday* notes that the Bush White House may gain political advantage by pardoning Mr. Libby.

This is why Congress and the American people should be informed if and when a president pardons an administration employee. The notice should include information that sets forth the complete picture surrounding the pardon. This would include: the name and government title of the person, nature of the offense, the date of the pardon, the effect of the pardon on any criminal sentence or fine that may have been imposed, whether the person was involved in any criminal or civil investigation, whether the president sought the opinion of the lead Federal investigator on whether a pardon should be granted, and the position of the lead Federal investigator on whether a pardon should be granted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 24, 2006, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 394: "yes" (S. 1496); Rollcall No. 395: "yes" (S. 203); and Rollcall No. 396: "yes" (H.R. 5534).

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB FISHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Bob Fisher, who will begin his 13th year as President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcasters Association in August of this year.

Bob has been the driving force behind recording oral history video interviews with Nevada's pioneer radio and television broadcasters to be preserved for future generations. For the past 12 years, Bob has hosted a weekly public affairs radio program called "Observations" that airs on 17 stations. In addition, he has hosted a weekly public affairs television program, also named "Observations", that airs on four Northern Nevada stations. "Observations" is Nevada's most listened-to public affairs radio program.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career as a broadcaster, Bob has earned a number of accolades. He has earned three American Advertising Federation ADDY Awards for his broadcasting work, as well as Electronic Media Awards in 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Bob's service to the community extends beyond radio and television broadcasts. Currently, Bob serves as the State Coordinator and Chairman of the Nevada AMBER Alert Review Committee. He is a member of the Nevada Homeland Security Commission and serves as Rural Taskforce Chairman. He is also a member of the Nevada BRAC Commission, and a former President of the National Alliance of State Broadcasters Associations (NASBA). Furthermore, Bob is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Bob Fisher. Bob has been a tireless advocate for the broadcasters in the State of Nevada and has built a very respectable relationship between the broadcasters and our State and Federal Governments. I wish him the best as he continues his leadership of the Nevada Broadcasters Association.

CONCERNS WITH VIOLATIONS OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS BY GAZPROM AND RUSSIA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD an article titled "Texas Energy Concern, Assailing Big Russian and German Providers, Talks of Lawsuits" from the May 19 edition of the *New York Times*. The article, by Paul Meller, describes a situation impacting an important business in the 12th district of Texas.

Since 1997, Moncrief Oil International, Inc. of Ft. Worth, Texas, has held a significant contractual interest in the development of the Siberian Yuzhno-Russkoye gas field owned by Gazprom, Russia's state-owned gas monopoly. Despite Moncrief Oil's well-documented claim, Gazprom is now in the process of transferring mineral assets to European firms that infringe upon the U.S. company's commercial rights and interests.

I am concerned about this apparent violation. It is my hope that Gazprom and Russia will honor and enforce all contractual obligations relating to its strategic minerals industries.

[From the *New York Times*, May 19, 2006]

TEXAS ENERGY CONCERN, ASSAILING BIG RUSSIAN AND GERMAN PROVIDERS, TALKS OF LAWSUIT

(By Paul Meller)

BRUSSELS, May 18.—An American-based energy company, Moncrief Oil International, is threatening to sue two German companies, contending that an agreement they signed with the Russian giant Gazprom interfered with Moncrief's existing contracts to develop natural gas fields in western Siberia.

Moncrief—a privately owned, family-founded business in Fort Worth—has sent letters to the German companies, E.On and Wintershall, a gas-distribution unit of the German chemical group BASF, informing them of its plans to take legal action in the German courts, Moncrief's president, Jeffrey Miller, said Thursday in a telephone interview.

The threat of the suit in a German court is the latest twist in Moncrief's efforts to get Gazprom to comply with an agreement in 1997 that gave it a 40 percent stake in the Yuzhno-Russkoye field.

Moncrief contends that Gazprom has ignored the agreement and is selling stakes in the natural gas field to other companies, including the 40 percent stake Moncrief says it owns.

In a statement issued after the letter to Wintershall was sent, the company's chairman, Richard W. Moncrief, said, "While Moncrief has delivered on its side of the deal, Gazprom has not honored its signed agreement with Moncrief, instead choosing to sell a stake in the field to BASF, and perhaps E.On."

Late last month, Gazprom signed an agreement that gave Wintershall a 35 percent stake in the Yuzhno-Russkoye field in return for an increased stake in Wings, a joint venture involving Gazprom and BASF.

Gazprom currently owns 35 percent of the joint venture. But under the agreement signed last month in the Siberian city of Tomsk and witnessed by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Chancellor Angela

Merkel of Germany, Gazprom's stake in Wingas will rise to just under 50 percent.

Gazprom is also poised to sign a similar development deal with E.On.

"Their discussions are advancing," Mr. Moncrief said. "The letter to E.On is preemptive and assumes that it will strike a similar deal with Gazprom to the one signed last month.

"Both BASF and E.On were informed by Moncrief of its prior interest in the Y.-R. field in 2005 when the first reports of a deal with Gazprom were emerging, and again in March this year—we still received no response. Certainly no one has ever denied the existence of our prior interest."

A Wintershall spokesman, Stefan Leunig, refused to "comment on the validity of Moncrief's claim."

Mr. Leunig said he did not expect the threat of legal action from Moncrief to affect the deal it signed with Gazprom last month, adding that his company's lawyers "do not recognize any legal foundation for a lawsuit by Moncrief against BASF-Wintershall in a court in Germany."

E.On could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Miller said he was confident that his company had grounds to sue. "Wintershall and E.On both know that their interest in the Y.-R. field interferes with Moncrief's contracts," he said, adding, "We value our 40 percent stake in Yuzhno-Russkoye at around \$8 billion."

Moncrief agreed to invest \$800 million to \$1 billion in the gas field, which it estimates contains 600 billion cubic meters of natural gas deposits. Mr. Miller said it had spent \$10 million to \$15 million on engineering and financing connected with the gas field.

Moncrief tried to sue Gazprom in Federal District Court in Fort Worth, but the court ruled that the case fell outside its jurisdiction. Moncrief is appealing that decision. In the meantime, rather than pursue Gazprom on its home territory, Mr. Miller said his company stood a better chance of fair treatment in Germany. "We don't think we'll get a fair trial in Russia," he said.

Michael Emerson, a specialist in European energy matters with the Center for European Policy Studies in Brussels, an independent research group, said Gazprom had reasons for extending its distribution reach further into Europe.

In addition to selling in lucrative European markets, the company is trying to thwart efforts to establish a new pipeline bringing gas from Turkmenistan to Europe through Turkey. Pressure to create such a pipeline mounted after gas supplies from Russia were cut to countries including Ukraine this past winter.

"Gazprom doesn't want this alternative supply route," Mr. Emerson said. "By consolidating its stake in E.On and BASF, Gazprom will gain a voice in all the strategic investment issues, and will be better placed to persuade European companies not to invest in a competing route."

TRIBUTE TO LANIE BLACK

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lanie Black for his years of public service to citizens of Southeast Missouri. Rep. Black has represented the 161st district in the Missouri House of Representatives since 1998, and he will retire at the end of the 2d Session of the 93rd General Assembly.

While in the Missouri House of Representatives, Lanie Black has been an active member of the Economic Development Committee and chaired the Transportation Committee. He has been a tireless advocate for his constituents, ensuring that their views are represented in the Missouri General Assembly.

Lanie has been a life-long resident of Charleston, Missouri. He is a 1965 graduate of Charleston High School. He then went on to Vanderbilt University to earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. After graduating from Vanderbilt, Rep. Black served as a diver for the U.S. Navy.

In addition to serving in the Missouri House of Representatives, Lanie Black has been an active member of his community. Rep. Black operates a poultry farm near Charleston, Missouri. He is a member of the local Kiwanis Club and the Missouri Farm Bureau. Lanie has continued to help the Boy Scouts of America as a scoutmaster. In 1993, Lanie Black was honored as the Charleston Man of the Year for his outstanding community involvement.

There are few individuals in public service who are as dedicated to our communities and country as Lanie Black. He has always put the views and interests of his constituents before his own political interest. Rep. Black was able to use his great knowledge of agriculture and rural affairs to better represent the needs and concerns of the citizens of Southeast Missouri. His strong faith and firm values guided him to public service, and he will exit that stage with dignity and class.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rep. Lanie Black. Missouri is a better place because of his leadership, and we wish Rep. Black the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PETER MYERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Myers, Missouri State Representative for the 160th legislative district. Rep. Myers is retiring from the Missouri General Assembly after eight years of distinguished service.

Rep. Myers was born on January 4, 1931 in Racine, Wisconsin. Upon graduation from William Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin, he earned a Bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1953. Rep. Myers proudly served his country from 1953–1955 as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordinance Corp. Rep. Myers then moved to Southeast Missouri in 1955, to own and operate a farm on the outskirts of Sikeston, MO. From 1955–1982, Rep. Myers worked the land and spent countless days in the fields cultivating crops. During this time, Rep. Myers gained a reputation as being an extremely knowledgeable and skilled farmer.

In the early eighties, Rep. Myers ventured into public service by accepting positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although Rep. Myers had been involved in many civic organizations and recognized as a leader in Missouri Agriculture, he was able to bring his expertise to a national level. He served in sev-

eral capacities throughout USDA, and eventually rose to the level of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture during the Reagan Administration. After Rep. Myers' service to USDA, he remained a strong voice for the American farmer.

In 1998, Rep. Myers decided to further serve Missourians in the General Assembly. He won a seat in the Missouri House of Representatives, representing the 160th District. Rep. Myers eventually rose to become the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Missourians have been fortunate to have such a devoted and well-versed member of the General Assembly. In addition to Rep. Myers' legislative duties, he advises Adopt a Farm Family of America, Inc., which is a Christian organization that provides support to rural citizens. Rep. Myers has committed his life to bettering the lives not just of farmers or his constituents, but of all Missourians.

As Rep. Myers completes his final term in the Missouri General Assembly, he can rest assured his actions in Jefferson City are well-respected by all Missouri farmers. His wife Mary and five children deserve to be commended as well, for they have supported Rep. Myers through the years. I once again congratulate Rep. Myers on his devoted service to the citizens of Missouri's 160th District. While Rep. Myers' time in office is winding down, I am certain he will remain a prominent figure in Missouri public life.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality and usefulness of health information technology:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express some concerns with the bill before us, but also to urge my colleagues to find ways to encourage the careful development of meaningful health information technology systems. It is critical that we move rapidly toward the development and implementation of an electronic health information system, but it also is critical that this be done with great forethought and integrity.

I regret that I cannot support the bill before us today because it fails to include critical components mandating quality in our health care technology systems. Furthermore, I echo the concerns of my colleagues regarding the need for patient privacy standards and important consumer protections.

This is a missed opportunity for our nation's health care system. The goal of moving health care from pen and paper to the digital age has enjoyed bipartisan support. I am troubled that the bill presented to the House of Representatives today fails to meet the standards of the bipartisan coalition spearheaded by my colleague, PATRICK KENNEDY.

In recent years, I have been proud to see the health care community in Rhode Island come together to accelerate the use of health

information technology in our state. One project in particular—and this is just one of many—called EHR—RI, has brought together physicians, hospital administrators and insurance company representatives to focus on the goals of getting this technology into physicians' offices and aiding in the often-complicated transition to new systems. The health care community recognizes the need to compromise and work in collaboration to achieve the goals of using technology to help patients and their families.

Because the efficient use of technology is central to our efforts to control costs and increase quality in health care, I urge my colleagues in Congress to follow their lead. Support stronger legislation that would truly advance the electronic health information exchange in our nation's health care system.

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE BRIGHT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Danielle Bright, a Haitian community leader, education activist and upstanding member of the Rockland county community.

Born in Haiti in 1951 her family fled the oppressive Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier regime in 1964. Her family then spent two years in Congo before moving to Europe. It was in 1971, in France that she married Lealy Bright; they later had two children. The family eventually settled in the United States in 1978, first in Brooklyn and then in my district in Rockland County.

After moving to New York, Ms. Bright did not forget her Haitian heritage. She went on to be a longtime activist for the Haitian Community in Rockland County. She was the founder and a board member of the Haitian-American Parents Association. Most recently, she was honored at the annual dinner of the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose center.

Fighting for the Haitian community was just one of Ms. Bright's causes. She was also a strong advocate for education for all children. She was an active member of the East Ramapo Board of Education. An ardent opponent of school budget cuts, she always argued that children deserved better. Those who worked alongside Ms. Bright on the school board called her a fierce advocate, dedicated to her work.

Danielle Bright spent a large portion of her life trying to improve the lives of others. She will be sorely missed by all of those in the community whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRANIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, next month marks the 100th anniversary of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, a pivotal event in Persian and Middle Eastern history. In the

face of a corrupt and authoritarian monarchy, and in order to defend Persian interests against British and Russian imperialism, the Persian people rose up and forced the creation of a parliament and the adoption of a constitution containing basic democratic rights for the first time in Iranian history.

To mark these events, I will be introducing a resolution recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, which I have drafted with the support of leading members of the Iranian-American community and the input of preeminent scholars of modern Iranian history.

At a time when the United States faces very serious and difficult issues with regards to Iran, this historic event demonstrates that the Iranian people have a long-standing desire for democratic self-government, free from authoritarian rule or foreign interference. I believe that understanding these values common to the Iranian and American peoples, as well as Iran's political history, will help us develop a constructive policy towards Iran. It is also an important sign of support for the Iranian people and our Iranian-American constituents.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2006

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 5960, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006, to fortify our Nation's efforts to prevent and end homelessness among veterans.

Each night, as many as 200,000 male and female veterans are sleeping in a doorway, under a bridge, in an alley, box, barn, car, or homeless shelter. While the number of homeless veterans has decreased somewhat, many veterans are on the brink of homelessness. Many veterans are at high risk of homelessness because of poverty, dismal living conditions, and lack of support.

A third of homeless men living on the street are veterans. Women veterans are up to four times more likely to become homeless when compared with their peers in the general population. According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the number of women among homeless veterans is increasing, from 2 percent of the homeless veteran population in 1996 to 7 percent at the end of 2005.

About half of all homeless veterans suffer from mental illness. More than two-thirds suffer from alcohol or drug abuse problems.

Behind these disturbing statistics are real men and women who have served our nation. We must lift the veil of invisibility that conceals the reality of homeless veterans. We must take action to honor these veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs has many good programs that need Congressional reauthorization to continue. However, even with these programs, we are not meeting the demand or providing adequate support to prevent at-risk veterans from falling into homelessness.

Earlier this month the Associated Press reported that homelessness is a threat for returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. Herold Noel is a 26-year-old former Army pri-

vate first class who served in Iraq during the beginning of the war. When he returned to New York, he could not find a job to support his wife and children. They ended up in a homeless shelter after the housing programs for veterans in the city were full. Mr. Noel is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), caused by his experience in the service. Mr. Noel, who drove a fuel-truck in Iraq, has had to deal with nightmarish images that he saw during war.

We must and can take steps to prevent homelessness among our returning troops.

My legislation recommits our nation to preventing and ending homelessness among veterans.

My legislation is the result of an ongoing dialogue with the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, information and findings from a Congressional briefing sponsored by Democratic Members of House Committee on Veterans Affairs, which heard from VA experts, community providers of care for homeless veterans and former homeless veterans, reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, and annual reports from the VA evaluating VA's health care programs for homeless veterans.

Specifically my legislation would extend expired authorization for VA's successful Homeless Veterans Grant & Per Diem Program through 2011 and reauthorizes yearly appropriations for the program at \$200 million.

In fiscal year 2005, the average per day payment to community providers to provide shelter, meals and intensive supportive services to veterans was \$24.16. It would be hard to find a hotel room in most cities at that rate, let alone provide a veteran with meals and supportive services, such as mental health and vocational counseling. My legislation would put the per diem rate paid to community service providers on par with the per diem rates for State Veterans Homes providing domiciliary care, which is \$31.30 for 2006.

This increase will greatly improve the capacity of community providers to help homeless veterans recover, rehabilitate and reintegrate back into society.

My legislation also improves accountability and performance of the Homeless Veterans Grant & Per Diem Program by requiring the Secretary to establish performance standards to evaluate and document clinical activities and outcomes.

The legislation also would require each grant recipient to provide financial information necessary for the VA to verify that payments provide services to homeless veterans.

VA provides grants for comprehensive homeless service centers that are open to homeless veterans on an unscheduled and drop-in basis. These centers are a vital access point to homeless veterans. The legislation clarifies that funding for these drop-in service centers for homeless veterans may be used to maintain adequate staffing for services.

The authorization to treat veterans suffering from serious mental illness, including homeless veterans expires on December 12, 2006. In addition, the authority to expand and improve the provision of benefits and services to homeless veterans in the 20 largest metropolitan areas expires on December 31, 2006. The legislation extends both authorities for five years, through 2011.

The legislation also extends authorization of program in 38 U.S.C. 2041 through 2011.

At the May 18, 2005, Congressional briefing on homeless veterans, we heard from Denise Randolph, a former homeless woman veteran. She explained that when she went to the VA to stay at the domiciliary she felt unsafe because the space was not set up to house women. VA experts confirmed that many VA domiciliary programs are not equipped to handle the privacy and safety needs of female veterans, although VA is addressing this problem. Given that more women are serving in our armed forces and those women veterans are at greater risk for homelessness, we must ensure that female veterans have access to safe VA programs. The bill would require the VA to enhance its capacity to provide safe domiciliary care for women veterans.

The VA has no specific programs to help community providers who focus on homeless veterans in rural and remote locations. This legislation would authorize special grants to community providers to meet the needs of homeless rural veterans.

Dental care has consistently been identified in the top five unmet needs of homeless veterans. The legislation expands homeless veterans' eligibility for dental services and treatment.

The legislation authorizes appropriations of \$1 million each year through 2011 to provide technical assistance grants to assist community providers in addressing the problems of homeless veterans.

The authorization for the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans expires on December 31, 2006. This committee has been very effective in assessing the effectiveness of VA policies, organizational structures and services to assist homeless veterans. The Committee has also been pivotal in identifying gaps in programs and barriers to addressing the needs of homeless veterans. The legislation reauthorizes the Committee through September 30, 2011. The legislation also clarifies that the Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the VA Under Secretary for Health and VA Under Secretary for Benefits are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Helping transition homeless veterans is a complex and challenging effort that requires vigilance and coordination. A number of geographic regions of VA hospitals do not have full-time staff as Homeless Veterans Coordinators. My legislation requires each Veterans Integrated Service Network, known as VISNs, to have at least one full-time Homeless Veterans Coordinator.

Last August, our nation saw the destructive force of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The homeless shelters in New Orleans, like other structures, suffered damage from this disaster. The legislation would authorize the VA to make emergency grants to community shelters providing care for homeless veterans to repair or replace facilities that are damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

Homeless veterans with severe disabilities, including mental health disorders, need supportive services to maintain their functional lives. Linking permanent housing to supportive services is an effective way to end long-term homelessness for veterans who have mental health disorders, including substance abuse or other disabling conditions. According to the Corporation for Supportive Housing, providing supportive services to individuals in permanent housing reduces costly emergency room visits

by 57 percent, decreases inpatient hospital days by 58 percent and reduces use of public residential mental health programs by 100 percent. The VA's research has found that homeless veterans who have housing and supportive services can revive social networks and rebuild their family relationships.

My good friend and colleague from New Hampshire, Representative JEB BRADLEY, has introduced legislation to require the VA, in coordination with HUD, to provide financial assistance to non-profit organizations to coordinate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veterans residing in permanent housing. I support his bill and I have included a similar provision in my legislation.

In addition to providing the services at-risk veterans need to remain in permanent housing, we must also take steps to prevent homelessness. The legislation authorizes the VA to conduct a demonstration program, in at least three sites, to identify veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless after discharge or separation from the armed services and provide referral and counseling services to help prevent such veterans from becoming homeless.

The legislation makes permanent the successful pilot program to provide counseling and outreach to at-risk veterans who are transitioning from a penal institution or an institution that provides long-term care for mental illness.

The Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006 has the strong support of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

I urge my colleagues to support the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY
COUNTY FAIR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Monterey County Fair on an outstanding 70 year tradition. During the week of August 15–20, 2006, the 7th District Agricultural Association's official County Fair will be enjoyed by both community residents and visitors with a theme of "That's Entertainment."

The Monterey County Fair promotes Monterey County's rich agricultural heritage with livestock demonstrations, displays and auctions to raise money for scholarships, including the participation of over 5,000 of Monterey County's youth through programs such as FFA and 4–H in festivities offered at the fair.

Exhibitors can choose from agriculture, horticulture and floriculture divisions for those with a green thumb, visual arts for the crafty and artistic, home arts for culinary whizzes and wine makers, and photography for camera buffs. Livestock categories include cattle, sheep, swine, rabbits, and poultry. These fun and friendly competitions are a chance to win both ribbons and prize money.

The Fair hosts Kids' Day, Seniors' Day, and Special Friends Day so that all children under age of twelve, all senior citizens living in Monterey County, and citizens of who are mentally or physically challenged can enjoy the fair.

The Monterey County Fair provides an excellent showcase of the unique, creative tal-

ents of the residents of Monterey County including crafts, fine art and photography. With over 200 categories for exhibitors to choose from, such opportunities increase self-esteem and community pride for all ages. This year they have added such innovative educational exhibits as a Living Food Pyramid that showcases local produce and teaches nutrition in a dynamic way, a Birthing Barn, Kid Tractor Pulls, a special new Kids Club, a Wild West Express Act, a special Street Rodder Car Show, and the all new Battle of the Bands.

The Monterey County Fair has launched a year-round Kid's Club to encourage Monterey County kids to learn more about the Monterey County Fair and get involved with many Fair activities year-round while having fun, such as the Read and Ride contest, coloring contest, and special Kids' Day activities.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Monterey County and all its citizens, I want to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Monterey County Fair, and wish them all the best on their 70th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, because of a briefing in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I was absent for rollcall vote 414 on an amendment by Congressman TOWNS. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

HONORING MS. NORCELLA GIBSON
FOR RECEIVING THE KINDRED
SPIRIT AWARD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you to acknowledge the good deeds of a caring and compassionate woman who has been an effective advocate for defenseless animals. Ms. Norcella "Sally" Gibson is the creator of Lucky Cat Rescue, an organization established to save the lives of stray and feral cats.

Along with rescuing and re-homing over 250 cats each year, Ms. Gibson can add to her resume the Kindred Spirit Award from the Doris Day Foundation. The award is given to people who show extreme kindness and compassion to animals. By founding an organization that gives cats and kittens medical attention, foster care, proper diet, and loving homes, Sally Gibson was a first-rate candidate.

Sally, the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland Hospital for Children, is known for her devotion to the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable, animals and children.

Lucky Cat Rescue takes in cats and kittens that are considered "unadoptable" by other shelters. In fact, these are the cats that would potentially be euthanized. Ms. Gibson maintains three feral cat colonies. She and other

volunteers offer these cats a home and foster families. Proud foster parents report back with incredible success stories.

Lucky Cat Rescue also serves as an educational organization. They provide information and resources to surrounding communities regarding the spaying and neutering of cats in order to reduce the amount of unwanted litters.

I believe it is important to protect animals. I proudly became a cosponsor of the Pet Animal Welfare Statue (PAWS) of 2005. This legislation regulates the pet industry and requires all commercial breeders to comply with basic animal welfare rules.

We live in a fast-paced world. Often times, the needs of animals can get overlooked. Ms. Gibson's, Lucky Cat Rescue is a place that shelters these creatures from cruelty. It gives me great pleasure to have a strong organization such as this in the Second Congressional District of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring before you today a woman with such a strong sense of empathy and humanity. The acts of kindness she has shown saved the lives of hundreds of animals. Ms. Norcella Gibson is worthy of great recognition for her kindness.

ON THE PASSING OF AMBASSADOR ANNE FORRESTER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to my sister, and friend, colleague Ambassador Anne Forrester, one of the premier civil servants and pan-Africanist of our generation. A great spirit departed this world when Anne lost her battle with pancreatic cancer and passed away in her home in New York City on June 23, 2006.

Today we mourn the loss of this great woman and celebrate her great legacy. As the third African-American woman ambassador in U.S. history and co-founder of TransAfrica Forum, Anne was a leader and mentor to us all. She devoted her life to public service and touched the lives of countless individuals. At the same time, Ambassador Forrester broke down barriers and paved the way for others to follow in her stead and continue the charge.

As an Ambassador from the United States to Mali, a senior aide to U.S. United Nations' Ambassador Andrew Young, Staff Director of the Sub-Committee on Africa for the House of Representatives, and a senior official at United Nations Development Program in Africa and in the Caribbean, Ambassador Forrester had a truly inimitable impact on the African Diaspora.

I met Anne on Capitol Hill during the mid-70s and got to know her and benefited from her brilliance, her great intellect, and her warm heart.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with her family—daughters Camara and Kandia and aunts, Helena and Ethel—during this difficult time, along with the countless individuals throughout the world who were impacted by her tireless dedication to public service. We all share their pain.

Ambassador Forrester was truly an unparalleled force on the forefront of an international movement; she worked tirelessly to connect

and improve the condition of African peoples throughout the Diaspora. And no words can express how greatly our sister-friend will be missed. Anne's far-reaching contributions to foreign affairs set a premier example for people all over the world. As we mourn her loss, we all must commit ourselves to ensure that Anne's spirit and work will live on.

HONORING THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Huntington Park and its more than 64,000 residents on the occasion of the city's 100th year anniversary.

I am proud to have this great city as part of my 34th Congressional district of California.

With a long and distinguished history and a vibrant community, the city of Huntington Park has evolved from a small community of 526 residents in 1906 to a bustling retail center for the Los Angeles County region in 2006.

In the latter part of the 18th century, the land which would eventually become the city of Huntington Park was a vast, unexplored territory. The first European of record to arrive to the area was Francisco Salvatore Lugo, a soldier-explorer and personal friend of the King of Spain. For almost a hundred years, the early history of the area was the history of the prosperous Lugo Family.

In the early 20th century, ownership of the land was passed from the Lugo Family to the farmers, developers, and settlers who were preparing the way for the birth of the city of Huntington Park. Among the prominent names in the city's history was a pair of land developers named A.L. Burbank and E.V. Baker who arrived in the area in 1899. By 1901, these two developers controlled a 100-acre tract of land, which they named "La Park". Burbank and Baker were prominent names in the area, but they themselves had no intention of founding a city. Their vision of La Park was for a commercial center and way station for all transport of goods between Los Angeles and San Diego. In 1902, prominent industrialist Henry Huntington extended a line of his Pacific Electric Railway to La Park, and changed the name to "Huntington Park".

A group of early residents became the city founders. They were: George A. Garlow, Dr. Louis Weber, Dr. Clinton W. Hubbard, A.E. Walters, O.G. Jones, A.A. Weber, D.B. Lyons, William Linsey, and Frank Tate. These men of true pioneer spirit and foresight formed the Huntington Park Improvement Association and things began to happen. On September 1, 1906, with 526 residents, the area was officially established and recognized as the City of Huntington Park.

Today, Huntington Park, "The City of Perfect Balance," is a dynamic city with exceptional recreation and social service programs. The city provides superior-quality public safety, transportation, and community development services to its residents and businesses while cultivating a unique small town ambiance. The stretch of Pacific Boulevard in downtown Hun-

tington Park is a major, thriving commercial district serving as a major retail center for the largely, working-class communities of southeastern Los Angeles County.

As part of the City of Huntington Park's 100th anniversary, a centennial celebration will be held at the city's civic center. The city's year-long celebration will include special recognitions from local organizations including the Huntington Park Police Department and the Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce.

The 100th year anniversary of The City of Huntington Park is another milestone in the rich history of the city, as well as in the history of the state of California and the United States. I am honored to represent this thriving community in Congress, and I join the Huntington Park community in celebrating this wonderful anniversary.

INTRODUCING A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LAMBDA THETA NU SORORITY, INCORPORATED, THE FIRST INTERCOLLEGIATE GREEK-LETTER SORORITY ESTABLISHED FOR LATINA COLLEGE WOMEN ON THE WEST COAST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to introduce a Concurrent Resolution recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter sorority established for Latina college women on the West Coast.

Lambda Theta Nu is a wonderful sorority. It has now grown into a well developed and structured organization that caters to the needs of Latina women in higher education. This sorority's B+ average grade point average among all its undergraduate members shows their dedication to academic excellence among Latina college women. Lambda Theta Nu prides itself on turning girls into women, Latinas into professionals, and students into graduates. Lambda Theta Nu's devotion to the Latino community and the positive development of its members should be applauded by all Members of the House.

The text of the resolution follows, and I urge my colleagues to show their support for this distinguished organization by cosponsoring it.

Recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter sorority established for Latina college women on the West Coast.

H. CON. RES. ____

Whereas the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority was founded by 18 young women on March 11, 1986 at California State University, Chico;

Whereas Leticia Campos, Mary Helen Coronado, Pamela Daña, Abigail Estrada, Cecilia Fabian, Guadalupe Favela, Maria Gonzalez, Josephine Hernandez, Theresa Jauregui, Patricia Lozano, Luz Amelia Martinez, Rosa Meza, Imelda Michel, Rosana Michel, Teresa Reyes, Camille Rugama, Lisa Saldano, and Rosabelia Sanchez, the founders of the sorority, recognized and responded to the needs of

Latina women in higher education and established an innovative organization to respond to these needs;

Whereas the principles of the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority are academic excellence, community service and sisterhood;

Whereas Lambda Theta Nu Sorority fosters collegiate academic excellence and promotes an environment for personal growth within a unit of sisterhood for all its members;

Whereas Lambda Theta Nu Sorority does not discriminate based on race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or handicap;

Whereas, for over 20 years, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority has played an integral role in improving the college graduation rate for Latinas across 25 college campuses in California, Colorado, Nebraska and Texas;

Whereas Lambda Theta Nu Sorority is a founding member of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organization, the first of its kind.

Whereas for over 20 years the sisters of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority have been committed and devoted leaders for the Latino community by serving as positive and educated role models, and contributed to efforts to increase Latino literacy nationwide: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors the 20th anniversary of the founding of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority;

(2) commends its Founders and all Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. sisters for their bond of sisterhood, common ideals and beliefs, and service to the Latino community; and

(3) expresses its best wishes for Lambda Theta Nu Sorority Inc.'s continued success and growth.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF
CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and the record of our distinguished former colleague, Thomas J. Manton, a superb public servant who passed away on July 22nd.

Tom Manton was born on November 3, 1932. In many ways, his birth date was symbolic of the man Tom would become. Just as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, elected President a few days later, would usher in a new era of optimism and faith in the American system, Tom Manton lived a life that served as an inspiration to all who believed, and continue to believe, in the American Dream.

A young child during the Depression, Tom Manton was a typical son of Irish immigrants, people who came to this country in search of work and a better life for their children. In fact, Tom's father, Tom, Sr., was a laborer here at the United States Capitol. Surely, as he worked to help build the Cannon House Office Building, he must have looked around now and then, seen the grandeur of the place, and dreamed that one day, his son would work there, not as a laborer, but as an elected representative with an office suite in the building. This most American of dreams, in fact, came true.

Tom attended St. Joseph's School in Astoria, Queens, and St. John's Prep in

Brooklyn; he earned an undergraduate degree and, by going to school at night, a law degree from St. John's University. When his country needed him, Tom Manton served as a Flight Navigator in the U.S. Marine Corps. He then continued to serve his Nation and community by becoming a New York City Police Officer.

In 1970, Tom was elected to the New York City Council, where he continued his work to safeguard the welfare of his fellow citizens. He would continue in this position for fourteen years. In 1984, Tom seized the opportunity to represent his community in the U.S. House of Representatives when he won the election to succeed Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro.

Two years later, Tom became the Chairman of the Queens County Democratic organization and immediately began the revitalization of the local party. Tom took the reins at a time when the party was racked with front-page problems and a loss of public trust. Not only did he turn the party organization around and bring it back to full health, but in doing so, he insisted on making its membership more diverse and more reflective of the diversity of our beloved borough of Queens.

Tom's passion for equality took form in his commitment to helping new political leaders of varying ethnic backgrounds achieve impressive firsts. He helped elect the first Latino from Queens to the New York State Assembly; the first Chinese-American to the City Council; the first woman to serve as Borough President; and then the first African-American woman to Borough Presidency; he supported the first Indian-American and Korean-American District Leaders. These are just a few of these achievements.

As a direct result of the discipline and commitment he brought to every task, and the tireless work he put into the party, the Queens Democratic Committee is now one of the strongest party organizations in the country. Every Democratic candidate for President, going back to Michael Dukakis, sought Tom out, knowing that without his support, the votes of Queens Democrats would be few and far between.

As a congressman, Tom was a bull-dog-like advocate for New York's interests. He won a seat on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and used his influence to bring jobs and opportunity to his constituents. He fought for critical improvements in the Superfund program to accelerate the cleanup of toxic waste sites. He also took the lead in improving the conservation of our Nation's fisheries and ocean resources as chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Management. He used his experience as a former member of the NYPD to ensure that police officers across the Nation—and their families—would receive fitting lifetime compensation in the event of permanent job-related injuries. He was a Member's Member, constantly working behind the scenes to assist his colleagues, helping to rescue stuck legislation, or cutting deals that made everyone feel like a winner.

Having lived the American Dream himself, Tom worked ceaselessly to safeguard the opportunity for everyone, native born and immigrant alike, to live the American Dream as well. Tom was tough, but Tom was fair. And respect for Tom was universal, and went beyond ideology or partisan boundaries.

Tom never forgot his roots. He played a tireless and crucial role in helping to bring peace

to Northern Ireland. He served as co-chair of the bipartisan Irish Caucus. He was selected to be the Grand Marshal of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade, something of which I know he was proud.

With Tom Manton's passing, we have lost one of the classic old school Irish politicians that New York has sent to Washington to look after the interests of ordinary Americans. Tom was a guy who was decent and honest. His word and handshake were his bond. Tom worked quietly behind the curtain, rather than grandstanding in front of the cameras. Tom was a stand-up guy, the real deal.

When Tom Manton entered Congress in 1985, I had been serving in Congress for little more than a year. All of us in the New York delegation turned to Tom for advice and guidance. Tom made a difference in the lives of everyone who knew him, and his efforts improved this country for every one of its citizens.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Tom's widow, Diane, his children, and grandchildren. He loved them dearly and they love him still. Like many of my colleagues, I will miss Tom. I will miss his wise counsel and his unquenchable passion for our community and its people. America and New York have lost a truly good man and a great public servant.

RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE
PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENTS OF
CYPRUS AND TURKEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing our deepest gratitude to Cyprus and Turkey.

We are all following the news from the Middle East with concern and regret. The Lebanese South—for many years a region of civil war, of mortal fear and hopelessness—is burning again. Parts of Israel are suffering under permanent rocket fire. The military actions are causing humanitarian difficulties, as well. Thousands of Americans and Europeans are suffering in the region. When Hezbollah started their offensive against Israel, there were at least 25,000 American citizens in Lebanon.

The current situation painfully reminds me of Lebanon in the year 1983, when 241 Americans were killed in a suicide bombing. It also brings to mind the evacuation of American citizens from Iran in 1979 and from Vietnam in 1975.

However, we must remain optimistic. There is some light in the darkness, something not to overlook in these sorrowful days: Even at a time when the United States is not the most beloved country in the world, we can feel that we are not alone. We are not alone in our efforts to save the lives of our citizens. True friendship is shown in difficult times, and I am glad it does.

I hope we are all aware that the United States could never manage the evacuation of 25,000 citizens without reliable partners in the region. Bearing this in mind, I feel deeply grateful not only toward two governments but also towards two people: The governments and people of the Republics of Cyprus and Turkey.

Cyprus opened her doors to Americans evacuating Lebanon. On July 15th, a short-time after the Israeli reaction started, the Cypriot government declared its readiness to assist efforts for the evacuation of U.S. citizens and other nationals fleeing Lebanon.

The government set up a committee to organize the reception of thousands of evacuees—between 5,000 and 10,000 were expected just in the first week of the evacuation. Keeping in mind that the Republic of Cyprus does not have more than 750,000 inhabitants, this is an enormous task.

Thousands of American citizens have already been evacuated to Cyprus. Many of them breathed a big sigh of relief! We received reports about the extraordinary hospitality offered to our evacuees. The Cypriot people obviously know about the needs of people suffering under war and terror due to their own painful history of war and separation.

Besides Cyprus, our Turkish friends also offered their support. For the purpose of the evacuation of American citizens they provided their Mediterranean seaport Mersin. From there our evacuees can easily be transported to the U.S. military base of Incirlik. The Turkish offer is also an expression of our deep and strong alliance.

Today, we should express our hope that the excellent cooperation of the last several weeks will be continued.

It is also time to recognize the responsible roles the Turkish and the Cypriot governments are playing in their efforts to stabilize the Middle East, and encourage them to proceed.

Let us keep in mind: Real friendship is proven in times of crisis, and we can be appreciative that it does. Let us support this process sending a message of gratitude to our friends in Cyprus and Turkey!

Thank you Cyprus, thank you Turkey!

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON S. 250, CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the Portland region and our global economy demands a highly trained and skilled workforce the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act will become even more important. Congress, in this instance, understands the important role technical and skilled education plays in preparing our workforce for the future.

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act is a good federal investment, which will increase the role of math, science and technology in career and technical education programs and encourages the expanded use of technology by teachers and faculty. It strengthens the relationship between academic and technical instruction and

ensures access for students in secondary and postsecondary programs across the country.

Thousands of Oregonians have lost their jobs over the past several years and many are holding down jobs that pay less and provide fewer benefits. I have heard from businesses and job seekers about the challenges facing the region. High-tech manufacturing represents about 30 percent of the jobs in the Portland region, however, we do not have enough skilled labor. We desperately need to be preparing and training our students for these types of skilled jobs. It is expected by 2020, the U.S. will experience a shortage of up to 12 million college-educated workers.

This bill is a step in the right direction to help prepare Oregon for a 21st century workforce.

UNITED STATES AND INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

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:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5682, the "United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006."

The close relationship between the U.S. and India is crucial to world stability. We share a common system of government, common constitutions, and common values. The two nations work closely together on a wide range of issues including building peace and security in South Asia, increasing bilateral trade and investment, meeting global environmental challenges, fighting disease, and eradicate poverty.

India is an important partner in the ongoing struggle to fight terrorism. Just last week the House of Representatives passed a resolution, which I cosponsored, expressing sympathy for the people of India in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai on July 11, 2006. The resolution also expressed our solidarity with the government and people of India in fighting and defeating terrorism in all its forms.

Today, we have a historic opportunity to advance and deepen relations with India with the passage of the bill before us. Under this pact, India would open up its civilian nuclear facilities to international inspections. This legislation contains important conditions including that the President must determine that the International Atomic Energy Agency and India are working to ensure that there are more inspections of nuclear facilities and that India is working with the United States to prevent the spread of enrichment and reprocessing technology.

India is a vital friend and ally and by approving this bill we will make that relationship even stronger.

I commend Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for their leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

COMMENDING THE DOMESTIC COPPER INDUSTRY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the domestic copper industry and to thank them for the tremendous services that they are providing to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the men and women serving in the United States military at home and overseas.

The copper industry has long stood as one of the cornerstones of Pennsylvania's manufacturing base. With a number of producers and fabricators operating across the Commonwealth, including Heyco Metals in my district, I have had to opportunity to learn of the far-reaching benefits of copper. The Department of Defense has also recognized the benefits of incorporating copper and copper alloys into military applications. As such, the military and copper industry have established a cooperative relationship to advance research and development in a wide breadth of areas including medical technology and industrial systems. Copper research has produced crucial advances for the American military in land based, shipboard, and aerospace applications and has done so in a cost-effective manner.

I am encouraged that the Army, through the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC), is undertaking research on how best to utilize copper alloy's intrinsic antimicrobial capacities in healthcare settings, including military outfits at home and overseas. The Copper Antimicrobial Research Program and the Copper Air Quality Program involve retrofitting surgical units and HVAC systems in critical DoD facilities—including VA hospitals and clinics, mobile medical units, shipboard medical facilities—with copper surfaces and components. Research has shown that these surfaces are able to quickly inactivate infection causing pathogens. Copper offers the potential to notably improve air quality and reduce the risk of cross-contamination between staff and patients in critical care units.

These projects are examples of the potential that collaborative efforts hold for the military, but it is important to also recognize that continued innovation helps sustain the copper industry and the manufacturing sector as a whole. Heyco Metals, a fabricator of non-ferrous metals in Reading, PA, has been serving an important role in the copper industry. It is also appropriate to recognize the Copper Development Association (CDA), of which Heyco Metals is a key member. CDA serves as the development, engineering, and information services arm of the copper industry. I commend both Heyco Metals and CDA for their passionate commitment to expand the market for copper applications.

In closing, I am grateful to both my colleagues and the military for recognizing the crucial benefits that the copper industry has to offer.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT
MARK VECCHIONE OF EASTHAM,
MA

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, a community is gathering to remember a young man who died far away from his home of Eastham on Cape Cod, in a place made infamous through the fury of war. Today, he returns to the place of his youth, to be mourned and to rest forever where peace holds its gentle sway.

Army Sergeant Mark Vecchione was the typical, all-American kid who had a fear of spiders, but confessed his greatest weakness was seeing a little kid upset. He went to Iraq, not as part of a conquering Army, but to help establish that fundamental human value that all people everywhere—especially children—should never have to live in fear.

As the Bible tells us, "Blessed is the peacemaker; for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are those who mourn; for they shall be comforted." SGT Vecchione was a soldier determined to bring peace to a war-torn land. Now he is in a place to join with Him to bring some comfort to those who gather to mourn his passing.

I ask that all of my colleagues in the House take a moment to read the following commentary that recently appeared in the Cape Cod Times about this young man.

[From the Cape Cod Times]

FIRST CAPE SOLDIER KILLED IN IRAQ

(By Robin Lord and Jason Kolnos)

Cynthia DesLauriers and her daughter, Lori Vecchione, were sitting on their deck in the evening breeze Tuesday when a government car pulled up to the house. At first, DesLauriers, who is a front desk clerk at the Eastham Post Office, thought it was someone from the U.S. Postal Service. But, when men in military uniforms stepped out, DesLauriers knew her worst fears had been realized.

"They didn't even have to say anything. I just said, 'No, no, no, it's not happening,'" she said yesterday, a little more than 12 hours after she learned her only son and youngest child, Mark Vecchione, 25, had been killed in Iraq.

The Army sergeant, who had written on his personal myspace.com Web page that "getting home alive" was his No. 1 goal this year, died Tuesday somewhere in Iraq.

He was killed when the tank he was riding in ran over an "improvised explosive device" or IED. As the head gunner in the tank, he may have been riding halfway out of the vehicle when it was hit, according to what an Army official told his mother, The Army official did not reveal the exact location of his death or his body to DesLauriers, or any other details surrounding his death, pending an investigation and report, she said.

Vecchione died exactly two weeks after he had returned to Iraq from a short leave with his family in Eastham.

He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq, which was due to end in six months.

Although Vecchione moved to Tucson, Ariz., when he was a junior in high school to live with his now deceased father, Guy Vecchione, he is the first person who was born and raised on Cape Cod to die in the war that began more than three years ago.

"If you were going to go to war, you'd want to go with him," said Al Cestaro, a re-

tired sergeant in the Army's 501st Airborne Division, who has known Vecchione since kindergarten in Eastham.

Cestaro called his friend "selfless and kind." As an Army sergeant, he said Vecchione had "an undying dedication to his soldiers."

Vecchione was honored to be serving his country, Cestaro said.

"We all knew as soldiers the price of freedom is you have to see your friends die, or you die. But he didn't want to die any other way than knowing he was protecting his family."

When Vecchione re-enlisted after his first tour of duty, Cestaro said he asked him why he wanted to go back to the dangers and the horrors of war. He said Vecchione told him he didn't want to let his comrades down.

There are about 132,000 U.S. troops serving in Iraq. As of 10 a.m. yesterday, 2,554 soldiers have been killed and about 19,000 injured.

Another friend from childhood, Vicki Fulcher of South Yarmouth, called the Army Vecchione's "passion." Both Cestaro and Fulcher partied with Vecchione when he was home earlier this month, stopping at one of his favorite places, the Land Ho in Orleans, and enjoying cookouts.

To his sister, Lori, Vecchione was her best friend. He was "very brave, smart, with a heart of gold and nerves of steel," she said. And he was also a hero to her five-year-old son, Sebastian.

To his mother, he was "just my little boy who was always watching out for us."

With tears welling in her eyes frequently and her face etched with the numbness and weariness that only sudden grief can bring, DesLauriers said her son was "very proud" to be serving in Iraq, but "was afraid at times" of the dangers.

A glance at Vecchione's myspace.com Web page reveals a man with a deep love for his family, especially his nephew Sebastian. He called his late father, who died last year, his hero.

He listed spiders as his greatest fear, but posted several pictures of himself holding a 5-foot machine gun in Iraq.

And he joked that the club he belonged to while attending Sahuaro High School in Tucson was the "Reserved Seat In the Principal's Office Club." He regrets most not doing a better job while in school. A Catholic man who wanted to be a pilot when he grew up, he said his greatest weakness was "seeing little kids upset."

When Vecchione left the Cape to live with his father in Tucson, he befriended Travis Wilson and his sister Bambi Anaya.

"He was the kind of person you could talk to about anything," said Anaya, 27, reached at her Arizona home yesterday. "He was that spot of sunshine in all of our lives."

Wilson, 26, an Army sergeant currently stationed in Fort Knox, Ky., called Vecchione "the greatest human being I have ever met and I'm honored to have had my life touched by him."

It was in July of 2001 when Vecchione, Wilson and another friend all decided to join the Army. Wilson said in addition to seeing it as a way to help his country, Vecchione saw the military as an avenue for personal growth before someday going to college.

At the Eastham Post Office on Route 6 yesterday morning, patrons were halted in their tracks at the door, where acting Postmaster Donald Rogers had posted a notice of Vecchione's death.

"It's a small community where everybody knows everybody," he said.

Recent photos of Vecchione in his uniform and with Sebastian are tacked up on the wall at the desk, as well as on the computer his mother uses. Customers often asked DesLauriers how he was doing, said postal clerk Mark Godfrey.

"I got the impression she got a lot of comfort from that," he said.

In addition to his mother, sister and nephew, Vecchione is survived by an uncle, Donald Vecchione of East Orleans; an aunt and uncle, Brenda and Jeff Vecchione of Eastham; and a cousin, Tye Vecchione of Chatham, Services will be held at a later date.

HONORING RONNIE BARRETT FOR
BEING NAMED A 2006 ENTRE-
PRENEUR OF THE YEAR

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ronnie Barrett for being named a 2006 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Ronnie is a friend and a resident of my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He is the president and founder of Barrett Firearms and with this award, he is now eligible for the title of National Entrepreneur of the Year at the annual awards held in November.

Entrepreneurship is nothing new to Ronnie. Twenty-five years ago, he was a professional photographer with his own business and an idea of how to build a better rifle. Using engineering skills he taught himself, he labored in his garage workshop and by 1987, he held a patent for his invention, .50 caliber rifle that could be shoulder-fired.

Since then, Ronnie has become the premier manufacturer of .50 caliber rifles. In 1989, Sweden became the first country to sign a military contract for his rifles, and more than 50 other countries have done the same. Today, his customers range from sportsmen to the U.S. military. In fact, the U.S. Army last year named his M107 rifle as one of the "Ten Greatest Inventions."

I wish Ronnie all the best at the national awards, and I wish him many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTEN-
NIAL OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH OF MUIR (MICHIGAN)

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer recognition of the 150th anniversary of the First Christian Church of Muir, Michigan. It is located in Ionia County, part of the Third Congressional District of Michigan, which I represent. The church will celebrate its sesquicentennial on September 7, 2006.

The First Christian Church of Muir is part of the Michigan Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has great historical significance within that denomination. The church was formed in 1856 at about the same time the village of Muir was organized. Some members of the community called upon a friend, the Rev. Isaac Errett of Ohio, to come to Michigan to establish a church.

The church held its first meeting on a cold, mid-winter morning, when parishoners gathered at the edge of the Grand River with temperatures that reached 31 degrees below

zero. They had to break through the river's ice in order to get water to perform baptismal rites—certainly not a baptism by fire, I must say! The church became known as the "Mother Church of the World," as it was the denomination's first church in the Grand River Valley and became the parent church of offshoots in Ionia, Owosso, Detroit, North Plains and Woodard Lake, as well as financing other Disciple churches in Tennessee, Kansas and Missouri.

In 1861, the church building was completed, and Rev. Errett's longtime friend and fellow Disciple of Christ James A. Garfield, soon to become a member of this House and later to be the 20th President of the United States, traveled to Muir to dedicate the building. An elder and minister in the Disciples of Christ, Garfield had visited the church and preached there several times. Garfield was not the only House member and future president to visit the church, as then-Congressman Gerald R. Ford was on hand in 1956 to participate in the church's centennial celebration.

The First Christian Church of Muir, originally constructed at a cost of \$3,215 with boards cut at local saw mills, today rests on its original foundation and displays several stained-glass memorial windows, with the main window as a memorial to Rev. Isaac Errett. The church's bell, which was cast in England and hangs in the church's belfry, still is rung to announce services each Sunday, and also rings out on special occasions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating the First Christian Church of Muir on its 150th anniversary and send well wishes to Rev. W. Gregory Gladding and the church's congregation as they celebrate their sesquicentennial on September 7, 2006.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON S. 250, CARL D. PERKINS
CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report for the Perkins vocational education program.

I am pleased to see that Tech Prep was maintained as a separate authorization from the state grants program.

Tech Prep is a program of study which begins in high school, continues at a postsecondary institution and culminates in an associate degree, two-year certificate, apprenticeship, or further postsecondary study in a career and technical field.

Tech Prep in my home state of Massachusetts serves 12,865 secondary school students and 3,450 post-secondary students. One hundred and forty secondary schools, 45 post-secondary institutions and 180 business and industry members partner together to help provide a smooth transition from secondary school to post-secondary education.

These are not idle statistics but real students who may transition into high-skill, high-

wage technical fields for which there is an escalating labor market demand. These academically and technically prepared graduates of Tech Prep programs are critical to the economic growth, productivity and internal competitiveness of the United States.

Regrettably, the House bill eliminated the separate funding stream for Tech Prep programs and merged the funding into the Basic State Grant. Such a move could have led to a loss of federal funding for—and reduction of congressional focus on—this important program.

My democratic colleague RON KIND and I sought to restore and retain the integrity of Tech Prep because we—and a number of concerned education groups—feared that the language in the House version would have led to a loss of funds for Perkins overall and could have impacted existing Tech Prep partnerships and innovation in career and technical education.

I am pleased that the conference report rejects the House bill's position and maintains Tech Prep as a separate title in the law.

I am also pleased that the Congress has stood up to the Administration and soundly rejected the President's proposal to eliminate vocational education.

I would like to thank Chairman MCKEON, Ranking Member MILLER, as well as Senator ENZI and Senator KENNEDY for their cooperative work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill before us today. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

HONORING ERLENE HIMES

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual from my congressional district. Erlene Himes, a longtime educator and librarian, recently announced her retirement as director of the Marion County Public Library. Mrs. Himes has distinguished herself as a selfless leader throughout her many years of service to the communities of Marion County and Taylor County, Kentucky.

A native of North Carolina, Mrs. Himes came to Kentucky in the early 1960s to pursue a bachelors degree in elementary education at Campbellsville College. Upon completion of her studies, Mrs. Himes taught for 2 years at the Taylor County elementary school. This was followed by 2 years working in the Campbellsville College library. Soon thereafter, she earned a masters degree in library science from Western Kentucky University and began her 28-year career with the Marion County Board of Education. During these years Mrs. Himes worked at Calvary, Raywick, Bradfordsville, Glasscock Elementary and Marion County High School libraries, leaving a special mark at each school.

While she was librarian at the Marion County High School, Mrs. Himes worked the concession stand at sports events in a successful effort to raise money to purchase the first computers for the library. She would later complete the ambitious task of cataloguing the entire high school circulation on computer.

Erlene Himes retired from the Marion County Schools in 1996, refocusing her generous spirit on volunteer projects at the Campbellsville College Bookstore and the Taylor County Food Pantry. She was called back to duty in early 2001, becoming director of the Marion County Public Library. Under Mrs. Himes leadership, the library's patronage increased significantly, Friends of the Library were revived, and the library has been the recipient of three awards from the Kentucky Department of Libraries.

On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from her generosity and vision, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Erlene for her years of service and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

It is my great privilege to recognize Erlene Himes today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for her exemplary citizenship and community engagement. Her efforts, past and present, make her an outstanding American, worthy of our collective respect and honor.

TRIBUTE TO SPC. RAYMOND
SALERNO III OF LAND O'LAKES,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army Specialist Raymond Salerno III of Land O'Lakes, Florida recently passed away following an extensive battle to recover from wounds sustained during operations in Iraq. Specialist Salerno was 27 years old, and leaves behind a fiancée, a 7-month-old son, and a grieving family.

While on patrol in Iraq in October, Specialist Salerno's tank was struck by a roadside bomb, sustaining third-degree burns over much of his body. While recovering in Fort Benning, Georgia, Specialist Salerno had recovered enough to perform basic tasks like answering telephones. His death came as a shock to everyone who knew him.

A dedicated wrestler, Specialist Salerno graduated from Land O'Lakes High School in 1997. Following his high school career, he worked at Response Mail, a direct mail marketing company. Yearning to one day gain a college education, Specialist Salerno joined the Army. His dream was to potentially go to the police academy and earn a pilot's license.

Specialist Salerno leaves behind his fiancée Nerea Guerrica and their son Nikolas; parents Robin and Raymond Salerno; brothers Christopher and Joshua; and sister Camille.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Specialist Raymond Salerno III who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While brave men and women like Ray have perished in the cause of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget their sacrifice and commitment.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 250, CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the Conference Report for S. 250, legislation to reauthorize the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. This conference report is the product of an all too rare, bipartisan, good faith effort to pass real legislation that makes a difference in our communities across the Nation. This conference report also sends an important message to the President who has proposed to eliminate federal career and vocational education programs: These programs work and we are united in our support for them.

I am particularly pleased that this bill includes my amendment to encourage schools to develop individual graduation and career plans for students in career and technical education programs. Including graduation and career planning as an allowable activity under Perkins is one small step in addressing the pressing issue of our low graduation rates. These plans will help ensure that high school students graduate prepared for postsecondary education and the workplace.

Action is urgently needed to improve our high school graduation rates. The Manhattan Institute, the Harvard Civil Rights Project, and the Urban Institute have analyzed the data and come to the same conclusion—roughly 30 percent of all students who should be earning high school diplomas aren't. For African American and Hispanic students that number jumps to nearly 50 percent. Furthermore, only a fraction of students leaving our high schools are prepared for college. The Manhattan Institute found that nationally only 34 percent of students left high school prepared to enter a four-year college. Only 23 percent of African American students and only 20 percent of Hispanic students left high school prepared for college. We must mobilize our efforts across all of our education programs to turn this situation around. This legislation can be an important component of what I hope will be a national strategy to improve high schools.

I would also like to commend the House and Senate conferees for reaching an agreement to protect the integrity of the Tech Prep Program. This program has been tremendously successful in my district and across the State of Texas. Tech Prep programs have provided countless opportunities for our students to gain access to a rigorous academic curriculum, cutting edge technology, and college credit while still enrolled in high school.

I congratulate all of the members of the conference committee for their fine work, especially the committee chairmen and ranking members. This is legislation that we can all be proud to support.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VICTOR T. CURRY: CELEBRATING HIS 15TH PASTOR ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami's great spiritual and and community leaders, Bishop Victor T. Curry.

I am joined in honoring Bishop Curry by my colleagues: JAMES R. LANGEVIN of Rhode Island, ED CASE of Hawaii, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, DIANE E. WATSON of California, WILLIAM LACY CLAY of Missouri, ARTUR DAVIS of Alabama, TIM RYAN of Ohio, JOHN BARROW of Georgia, ADAM SMITH of Washington, MIKE THOMPSON of California, FORTNEY H. "PETE" STARK of California, JOSEPH CROWLEY of New York, MIKE ROSS of Arkansas, STEPHEN F. LYNCH of Massachusetts, CHARLES GONZALEZ of New York, STEPHANIE HERSETH of South Dakota, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, CHARLIE MELANCON of Louisiana, PATRICK J. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, G.K. BUTTERFIELD of North Carolina, DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, FRANK PALLONE, JR. of New Jersey, ALBERT R. WYNN of Maryland, SHELLEY BERKLEY of Nevada, LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio, RUSH HOLT of New Jersey, DAVID WU of Oregon, BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, TIM BISHOP of New York, BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia, JIM MATHESON of Utah, DAVE REICHERT of Washington, JOHN S. TANNER of Tennessee, F. ALLEN BOYD, JR. of Florida, LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, RAHM EMANUEL of Illinois, JOHN M. SPRATT of South Carolina, HENRY CUELLAR of Texas, HAROLD FORD, JR. of Tennessee, CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania, GWEN S. MOORE of Wisconsin, LEONARD L. BOSWELL of Iowa, RAUL M. GRIJALVA of Arizona, DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, AL GREEN of Texas, MICHAEL CAPUANO of Massachusetts, JOHN T. SALAZAR of Colorado, BOB ETHERIDGE of North Carolina, JULIA CARSON of Indiana, JIM COOPER of Tennessee, CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK of Michigan, C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER of Maryland, EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri, GREGORY W. MEEKS of New York, MICHAEL M. HONDA of California, DENNIS J. KUCINICH of Ohio, DALE E. KILDEE of Michigan, WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON of Louisiana, JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia, IKE SKELTON of Missouri, JOSE SERRANO of New York, EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York, ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland, MELVIN L. WATT of North Carolina, BARNEY FRANK of Massachusetts, CHET EDWARDS of Texas, SANDER M. LEVIN of Michigan, MARION BERRY of Arkansas, NICK J. RAHALL of West Virginia, MAJOR R. OWENS of New York, GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi, JOHN D. DINGELL of Michigan, CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, GENE GREEN of Texas, MAXINE WATERS of California, BART STUPAK of Michigan, ALCEE L. HASTINGS of Florida, LUIS V. GUTIERREZ of Illinois, JESSE JACKSON, JR. of Illinois, JOHN CONYERS, JR. of Michigan, SANFORD BISHOP, JR. of Georgia, BENNIE G. THOMPSON of Mississippi, SILVESTRE REYES of Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas, CORRIE BROWN of Florida, WILLIAM DELAHUNT of Mas-

sachusetts, RUBEN HINOJOSA of Texas, BILL PASCRELL, JR. of New Jersey, and SOLOMON P. ORTIZ of Texas.

On May 21st, Bishop Curry celebrated his 15th pastoral anniversary, and I want to echo the same sentiments of joy and gratitude that the 15,000 members of the New Birth Baptist Church in Miami on this happy occasion.

Bishop Curry's ministerial journey truly represents the best and the noblest of our community. As bishop, senior pastor, and teacher of New Birth Baptist Church, he is leading his congregation and has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the path to spiritual wisdom, social responsibility and good government.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous work he is doing in guiding not only the members of New Birth Baptist Church, but also the entire family of the "The Cathedral of Faith International."

His motto—"From Vision to Victory"—has impacted the lives of countless people, as Bishop Curry has carried forth his message of hope in person, in newspapers, on television, and on radio. He has demonstrated, both by word and by example, his unconditional love for and commitment to our children, the elderly, the poor, the disenfranchised, and those less fortunate among us.

I therefore join with my colleagues, the congregation of the New Birth Baptist Church and our entire community in honoring Bishop Curry on his 15th pastoral anniversary and in wishing him many more in the years to come.

HONORING EDDIE WELLS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary public servant and citizen from my congressional district. Eddie Wells, a ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park, recently received the Harry Yount Award, naming him the best ranger in the Southeastern Region of the National Park Service. The peer-nominated award recognizes and honors outstanding rangers who exemplify the highest standards of performance.

Mammoth Cave's Superintendent and fellow rangers cite Wells effective leadership skills, adaptability to change, and strong work ethic as requisites for his nomination. Ranger Wells' colleagues particularly emphasized his unique ability to communicate with a wide range of people, informing and educating park visitors and fellow employees on issues concerning emergency medical care, park regulations, and Mammoth Cave's history.

In addition to his duties as ranger, Eddie Wells leads a field training program at Mammoth Cave for graduates of the federal law enforcement center. He commits himself each session to coordinate the program in a way that each ranger can receive maxim benefit from the training. He is also a valuable and well-respected student mentor at the Great Onyx Job Corps Center.

Eddie Wells' service continues to significantly enhance park operations and community relations at Mammoth Cave. His vast knowledge, work ethic, and attention to detail

exemplify true professionalism, a standard appreciated by his colleagues and members of the public.

It is my great privilege to recognize Eddie Wells today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the National Park Service mission make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 233—NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WILD HERITAGE WILDERNESS ACT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, this bill, HR 233, the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act is the product of over five years of town hall meetings, field tours and open debates both in the House, the Senate and in city halls and county board chambers throughout the north coast of California. The bill that we have before us today is carefully crafted to address the concerns of the communities affected by this measure, every acre of which is entirely within my congressional district. I have personally invested many hours in the formation of this bill. I have hiked, fished, hunted and taken aerial tours of the areas in this legislation. I have also held public hearings with stakeholder groups representing timber, hunting and fishing, conservation, government, offroad vehicles, mountain bikes, business and farming. The process which has taken over five years, was exhaustive and inclusive.

This legislation would expand wilderness protection on public lands by approximately 273,000 acres entirely within California's 1st Congressional District. The legislation includes adding wilderness protection to the King Range of Humboldt and Mendocino counties. The Bush administration testified in both the Senate and House that the addition of the King Range would be the "crown jewel" of our national wilderness system. The legislation is not only important for the protection of some of my district's most treasured lands, it also enhances protection of the federally threatened and endangered salmon and trout and helps ensure a source of clean, reliable water for California's future.

With respect to this wilderness legislation, the two most contentious issues for the constituents of California's 1st Congressional District were our ability to fight and prevent forest fires and the continued access to the proposed wilderness areas. I took extra precautions to ensure the land managers would not lose any of the tools they have today to fight fire and their ability to apply pre-suppression measures to combat fires in HR 233.

This bill will not close any legal roads to anyone who wants to visit these truly spectacular areas.

I paid particular attention to people who enjoy off-road vehicle and mountain bike use, and no off-road vehicle trails will be closed in this bill. In addition, I worked with the Bureau of Land Management to create what many expect to be a world-class mountain biking trail system just outside of the King Range wilder-

ness area. Chairman POMBO and I also worked to provide additional protections to Cow Mountain in Lake and Mendocino Counties to protect or maintain existing mountain bike and off-road vehicle trails.

Impacts on the once strong logging industry in Northern California were also taken into consideration in this bill and there are no timber sales under consideration for any of the public lands in this legislation.

This bill will protect Northern California's most spectacular public lands. Specifically, this wilderness bill will protect the following areas.

SEC. 3 (1) SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: Approximately three miles east of Pillsbury Reservoir in Lake County.

Size: 23,706 acres

Highlights: Ten miles of the scenic Eel River canyon, Bloody Rock, and The Bloody Rock and Cold Creek Trails.

Description: The Snow Mountain Wilderness additions are composed of the lower elevation ancient forests, grasslands, chaparral and oak woodlands lying at the foot of the already designated Snow Mountain Wilderness. The California Department of Fish and Game considers these oak woodlands and grasslands important for the survival of local deer herds through the winter months when high-elevation areas are covered in snow. The additions contain a 10-mile stretch of the Eel River canyon which hosts bald eagle, osprey and trout. Forests of black oak, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, live oak and incense cedar provide important habitat for marten, goshawk and northern spotted owl. Bloody Rock, an enormous prominence that rises steeply above the Eel River, was the site of a battle between the Yuki Tribe and settlers in the Nineteenth Century. Trail 9W45 and the Bloody Rock, Cold Creek and Summit Springs trails traverse the area.

SEC. 3 (2) SANHEDRIN WILDERNESS

Location: In Mendocino and Lake counties, approximately 15 miles east of Willits.

Size: 10,571 acres in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Highlights: Views in all directions, including the Pacific Ocean, the Bay Area and Mount Shasta.

Description: The Sanhedrin Wilderness contains extensive old-growth forest, meadows, oak woodlands, chaparral and "serpentine barrens," places where the nutrient poor bluegreen soil is so inhospitable to many plants that only specially adapted species can survive. As a result, Sanhedrin Mountain provides habitat for at least five rare and unique plant species, including the Anthony Peak lupine that grows only in the Mendocino National Forest and nowhere else in the world. On a clear day, visitors to the area can see the Pacific Ocean, the Bay Area and even Mount Shasta hundreds of miles away.

SEC. 3 (3) YUKI WILDERNESS

Location: Mendocino and Lake counties, approximately five air-miles southeast of Round Valley and the community of Covelo.

Size: 53,887 acres in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Highlights: The Middle Fork Eel supports between one-third and one-half of California's entire remaining summer-run steelhead trout population.

Description: The Yuki Wilderness forests consist of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Shasta red fir, white fir and incense cedar. The Yuki region also hosts seven species of oak. Populations of eleven rare plants have been identified in the area. Several rare animals also call the area home, including the bald

eagle, marten, goshawk, northern spotted owl and prairie falcon. Elk and Thatcher creeks and the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Eel River host populations of salmon and steelhead trout. The Middle Fork Eel supports between one-third and one-half of California's entire remaining summer-run steelhead trout population. Wildflower displays are extensive. Whitewater boaters use the Middle Fork Eel River and hunting is another common activity. Trails include 11W15, 10W27 and Horse Pasture Ridge.

SEC. 3 (4) YOLLA BOLLY-MIDDLE EEL WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: Approximately 10 miles northeast of Covelo and Round Valley in Mendocino County.

Overall size: 27,036 acres.

Highlights: The Middle Fork Eel River hosts between 30-50 percent of the state's summer-run steelhead trout population, the Travelers Home National Recreation, Hell Hole, Leech Lake and Smokehouse trails.

Description: The Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness additions are dominated by old-growth forests, meadows, oak woodlands and the deep canyon of the Middle Fork Eel River. Howelia, an aquatic plant once thought extinct in California, was discovered here by botanists in the 1990s. The Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Eel River hosts up to one-half of California's entire remaining summer-run steelhead trout population. The Smokehouse, Travelers Home National Recreation, Hell Hole and Leech Lake trails traverse the area.

SEC. 3 (5) SISKIYOU WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: 22 miles west of Crescent City in Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

Size: 30,122 acres in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.

Highlights: An area noted for its botanical diversity and salmon and steelhead watersheds.

Description: The Siskiyou Wilderness Additions are among California's most remote lands. Unusual soils, great rises and drops in elevation, and ample annual rainfall all combine to offer refuge for an immense diversity of plants and animals in the proposed additions. Ancient forests consist of 14 species of conifers, the second greatest conifer diversity in the world. Salmon and steelhead trout use the region's many streams, especially Blue Creek. Eighteen rare plants have been identified in the area by the Forest Service. Other species include northern spotted owl, fisher, mink, bald eagle, Roosevelt elk and goshawk. The proposed additions contain the popular Forks of Blue and Gunbarrel trails.

SEC. 3 (6) MOUNT LASSIE WILDERNESS

Location: Approximately 20 miles northeast of Garberville eight miles west of Ruth Reservoir in Humboldt and Trinity counties.

Size: 7,279 acres.

Highlights: Scenic views of the Coast Range and a noted haven for rare and unusual plant species.

Description: The Mount Lassic Wilderness contains unique rock formations such as Mount Lassic and Red Lassic that are visible from as far away as the King Range to the west and the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness to the south. Unusual soils host six rare plant species that have been identified in the region. Other species include northern spotted owl, blue grouse, marten, fisher and goshawk. Old-growth forests of Douglas fir, incense cedar, and Jeffrey pine cover much of the area. Trail 5E33 climbs Mount Lassic and then drops to the Van Duzen River to the west.

SEC. 3 (7) TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: In Humboldt County on the western edge of the existing Trinity Alps Wilderness.

Size: 22,863 acres.

Highlights: Salmon and steelhead streams, and Native American cultural use and Extensive trail system.

Description: The Trinity Alps Wilderness additions are composed of rugged, heavily forested mid- to low-elevation country adjacent to the highlands of the existing Trinity Alps Wilderness. Horse Linto and Red Cap creeks provide cold, clear water for steelhead trout and coho and Chinook salmon populations. These wilderness additions are a refuge for unique and endangered species, including nine rare plants. The Horse Linto unit is used by local Native Americans for cultural purposes. Trails include 6E20, 6E31, 6E18, 6E15, 6E35, 6E74, 6E08 and Salmon Summit.

SEC. 3 (8) CACHE CREEK WILDERNESS.

Location: In Lake County, east of Clear Lake and south of Highway 20 and Highway 16.

Size: 27,245 acres.

Highlights: The second largest wintering bald eagle population in California. A herd of rare tule elk (the world's smallest elk) and Cache Creek is popular with whitewater boaters for its rapids and scenery.

Description: The Cache Creek Wilderness has canyons and ridges lined with oak woodlands, grasslands, chaparral, streamside forest and groves of gray pine. The region hosts the second largest wintering bald eagle population in California, a herd of tule elk (the world's smallest species of elk), black bear, beaver, river otter, bobcat, mountain lion, prairie falcon, golden eagle and other species. The area contains noted Native American cultural sites and it is well known for its spring wildflower displays. Whitewater boaters enjoy floating the "Wilderness Run" from the North Fork Cache Creek to Highway 16 because of its scenery, rapids and solitude. The Judge Davis, Redbud and Perkins Creek Ridge trails access the area.

SEC. 3 (9) CEDAR ROUGHS WILDERNESS

Location: West of Berryessa Reservoir in Napa County.

Size: 6,350 acres

Highlights: Shelters the largest grove in the world of the rare Sargent cypress and Shelters an important black bear breeding area.

Description: The Cedar Roughts Wilderness is a large mound of "serpentine" soil five miles in length. The area contains the world's largest grove of the rare Sargent cypress, which convinced pioneers to erroneously call the area "Cedar" Roughts. The wilderness is known to be an important black bear breeding area. The Cedar Roughts wilderness is accessed by a single rugged, nameless trail, but most of it is trackless.

SEC. 3 (10) SOUTH FORK EEL WILDERNESS

Location: In northern Mendocino County northwest of Laytonville and east of Leggett.

Overall size: 12,915 acres.

Highlights: Rare plant populations and Gives rise to scientifically-important Elder Creek

Description: Rare animals in the South Fork Eel Wilderness include goshawk and northern spotted owl. The Red Mountain portion of the South Fork Eel Wilderness contains the planet's entire known populations of Kellogg's buckwheat, Red Mountain stonecrop and Red Mountain catchfly along with other rare species. Unusual soils have created "dwarf forests" on top of Red Mountain. Streams in the area host coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Elder Creek originates in the proposed wilderness and then flows west into a University of California natural reserve. There, Elder Creek is the subject of numerous eco-

logical and geologic studies. The Cahto Peak Trail accesses a portion of the area.

SEC. 3 (11) KING RANGE WILDERNESS

Location: In southwestern Humboldt and northwestern Mendocino counties, approximately 18 miles west of Garberville.

Size: 42,585 acres in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties.

Size of individual units: Chemise Mountain—4,142 acres King Range—38,443 acres

Highlights: The longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the continental United States and Numerous hiking and equestrian trails. The Bush administration testified that this area would become the "crown jewel," of the national wilderness system.

Description: The King Range is the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the continental United States. It has beaches, peaks, vistas, dunes, coastal ancient forests of Douglas fir, madrone, incense cedar, and tan oak. Species of note include California brown pelican, steelhead trout, coho salmon, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northern spotted owl, and Roosevelt elk. The Lost Coast Trail traverses the entire length of the area's beaches and coastal bluffs. Other paths include the Cooskie Creek, Cooskie Spur, Spanish Ridge, Kinsey Ridge, Miller Loop, King Crest, Rattlesnake Ridge, Lightning, Horse Mountain Creek, Chinquapin and Buck Creek trails.

SEC. 6 ELKHORN RIDGE POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA

Location: In northern Mendocino County northwest of Laytonville.

Size: 11,271 acres.

Highlights: Small groves of old-growth redwoods, the South Fork Eel hosts the last remaining non-hatchery "long-run" coho salmon population in California, and whitewater rafting and kayaking.

Description: The Elkhorn Ridge Potential Wilderness Area is bisected by the Wild and Scenic South Fork Eel River. The South Fork Eel hosts populations of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, as well as the last remaining non-hatchery: "long-run" coho salmon population in California. The river flows through a rugged canyon surrounded by slopes forested with hardwoods, fir and an occasional old-growth redwood. The South Fork Eel's waters are a rich food source for osprey, bald eagle, otter and other creatures and provide challenging whitewater recreation for experienced boaters. The Elkhorn Ridge Potential Wilderness contains no established trails. The majority of the area is made up of undisturbed ancient forest and chaparral habitat, but a portion was logged when it was under private ownership. HR 233 directs the Bureau of Land Management to restore the parts of Elkhorn Ridge that were cut prior to its designation as wilderness.

SEC. 7 WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION—BLACK BUTTE RIVER, CALIFORNIA

Location: Mendocino County east of Round Valley and the community of Covelo.

Size: 21 miles.

Highlights: Provides some of the best habitat for endangered Chinook salmon and winter-run steelhead trout in the entire Middle Fork Eel River drainage.

Description: The Black Butte River and its tributary Cold Creek drain into the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Eel River just east of the town of Covelo. The watershed is extremely rugged, and most of the slopes above the river are steep and landslide-prone, though they are still mostly forested with groves of oaks and conifers. The upper reaches of the river and Cold Creek provide some of the best habitat for endangered Chinook salmon and winter-run steelhead trout in the entire Middle Fork Eel River drainage. The watershed has a long history of human habitation

first by the Yuki Tribe, then by Euro-American explorers and settlers. The Forest Service describes the watershed as containing "outstandingly remarkable fisheries and heritage resources values."

SEC. 10 CONTINUATION OF TRADITIONAL COMMERCIAL SURF FISHING, REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify my intent with Section 10. Section 10, which deals with commercial fishing permits in Redwood National and State Parks in California, directs the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for authorized vehicle access for commercial surf fishing at designated beaches within both the National and State Parks. The section provides that the number of permits shall be limited to the number of valid permits that are held on the date of enactment of this Act, and that the permits "so issued shall be perpetual and subject to the same conditions as the permits held on the date of enactment of this Act."

I want to clarify that this language should not be construed as creating a right vesting in the permit holder, which would be contrary to the way permits are issued throughout the National Park System. The intent of this language is simply to ensure that the National Park Service does not reduce the number of permits issued below the current level of valid permits, assuming there is sufficient demand for the remaining permits. Furthermore, there is no intent for the requirements of Section 10 to be construed as an implied waiver of applicable laws, including the National Park Service Organic Act and the Endangered Species Act, but rather a directive to the Park Service to discontinue its plan to completely phase out these permits. The language in Section 10 does not create a property right and the sole purpose of the language is to limit the number of permits to the number of valid permits in existence as of the date of enactment of H.R. 233.

In addition, the language in Section 10 requires the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits allowing for authorized vehicle access to designated beaches, including Gold Bluff Beach, within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, which is located within the broader national park boundary. However, nothing in this section is intended to override the responsibilities of the State of California and the management of the state park.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak on this legislation. HR 233 is a carefully crafted bill which takes all industries and constituencies into account. I urge my colleagues vote "aye" on this very important bill that will protect some of our country's most spectacular areas.

HONORING RACHEL SUTTERLEY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rachel Sutterley, a student at the Stuart Pepper Middle School in Brandenburg, Kentucky, for her recent participation and high achievement in the National You Be the Chemist Challenge (YBTCC). Rachel took second place in the completion, held last month at the Chemical Heritage Foundation headquarters in Philadelphia.

The YBTCC competition partners chemical companies with local schools to sponsor competitions and provide instructional materials to

supplement science and chemistry curriculum. The competition is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students throughout the country. Rachel and six other competitors earned the right to represent their schools in Philadelphia after passing initial qualifying tests and winning local competitions.

The YBTCC competition was divided into rounds where each student was asked a series of multiple choice questions. Rachel made it to the final round with a perfect score, answering difficult questions covering general chemistry, scientific history, biochemistry, nuclear chemistry, physics and math.

Rachel demonstrated great academic prowess and sportsmanship before a national audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Rachel Sutterley for her achievement and in wishing her continued success in her promising future years.

TRIBUTE TO BILL SELLERS OF
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a distinguished constituent, Bill Sellers of Brooksville, Florida. Bill has recently been named the 2006 Outstanding Agriculturalist of the Year by the Extension Professionals Association of Florida. Bill will receive the award at the Association's annual banquet this September.

Growing up on a farm, Bill took a keen interest in agriculture and the land. An avid member of the Future Farmers of America, Bill went on to study agriculture in college, eventually helping to manage his mother's cattle farm near Brooksville. Today, Bill earns a living as an agricultural mortgage lender.

In addition to his lifelong passion for agriculture, Bill has been involved in giving back to the local farming community through his service on the area extension board. Bill has also played a key role in the partnership between Hernando County and the University of Florida in the area of agriculture and farming.

One of Bill's greatest challenges as a proponent of the farming lifestyle is the reticence of today's youth to enter into an agriculture career. With the challenges farmers face from global competition, the increased use of technology and unpredictable weather conditions, fewer and fewer young people are entering the profession.

Mr. Speaker, men like Bill Sellers provide the lifeblood of this great Nation. Tilling the land, raising the livestock, and ensuring that America's food needs are met is an honorable calling. I commend Bill for his service and congratulate him on being named the Outstanding Agriculturalist of the Year.

BANNING CARBON MONOXIDE IN
MEAT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that would ban the practice of injecting packages of meat with doses of carbon monoxide to give it an artificially fresh appearance. The sole purpose of this practice is to deceive consumers into purchasing and potentially eating meat that looks fresh, but could be spoiled.

This week, the American Meat Institute announced the results of two studies claiming that carbon monoxide is safe to use in meat packages and urged opponents to concede their position and end the debate. Indeed, the carbon monoxide gas itself may be safe and would not cause harm to consumers. However, when the gas is injected to deceive customers into purchasing meat that could be months past its freshness date, then there is no doubt that it would be harmful to consumers.

These studies released by AMI are an intriguing contribution to the debate. One of them was funded by the beef industry. The other study was conducted by an AMI "expert consultant" who has received numerous grants from AMI, and also received an AMI scientific achievement award. Therefore, the results of these studies should not calm consumer fears and definitely should not cause opponents of this practice to end the debate.

In 2004, the USDA and FDA approved the use of carbon monoxide through an informal process without a full public comment process and without regulations specifying conditions of use. As a result, meat labels do not indicate whether meat has been treated with carbon monoxide—leaving no way for the consumer to know whether they are purchasing fresh meat.

Meat producers explain that the carbon monoxide process is safe and that it helps cut costs that result from discarding meat that has begun to turn brown, but still is safe to eat. That certainly is an understandable position. However, ground beef treated with carbon monoxide still could have the appearance of being fresh months after its 'sell-by' date. There also have been instances in the past where stores have misrepresented the freshness of their food long before the carbon monoxide process was introduced.

Supporters of the carbon monoxide process explain that smell is a better indicator of spoilage than color and consumers should base their purchases on the 'use or freeze by' date as the best guide. This is true; however, it should be noted that this date on meat packages is not based on any scientific or regulatory guidelines, but is determined by the industry. Also, why should consumers be subjected to the hassle of bringing meat home from the grocery store, opening the package to determine if it still is fresh, and returning it if it is spoiled?

Canada, Japan, and the European Union already ban the use of carbon monoxide in meat packages. I look forward to working with you to also protect American consumers from this deceitful practice. During a time when we have begun to question the safety of prescrip-

tion drugs, let's ensure that consumers do not have similar concerns about the food they buy.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN HARLAND CO. BOLINGBROOK PLANT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the John H. Harland Company on the 35th anniversary of its production facility in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

In 1971, Harland's corporate leaders made a decision to locate a plant near Chicago. The suburbs were booming, and the workforce was skilled. Not unlike today, the area had so much to offer in terms of its quality of life and great business climate. That decision proved to be a wise one indeed. This year, the company celebrates 35 prosperous years in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

Today, I would like to recognize the men and women of Harland and celebrate with them 35 successful years in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

The John H. Harland Company was founded in 1923. Over the next 83 years it grew and evolved into one of the premier financial services providers, doing business with more than two-thirds of all financial institutions in the United States. Its facility in Bolingbrook has played—and continues to play—a crucial part in Harland's success.

With approximately 200 employees, the Bolingbrook facility each year processes more than 11 million orders for checks for consumers in 13 states, including most of the Midwest, from Wisconsin to Kentucky and Pennsylvania to Minnesota and everywhere in between. In the true spirit of its founder, the John H. Harland Company's allegiance to its customers and employees remains strong 35 years later.

Harland also is committed to strengthening our community through service. In recognition of the spirit of service demonstrated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harland employees celebrate the MLK holiday as a day of service, volunteering at local organizations such as Meadowbrook Manor, Lambs Fold Women's Shelter, and the Shepherd Food Pantry.

I want to commend all of the Bolingbrook employees for their commitment to quality, customers, and community. It is their hard work and dedication that has made the Harland Company what it is today—a 35-year success story.

WELLS VS. WILLARD BY RACHEL
KARRER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues to the attached essay, Wells vs. Willard, by Rachel Karrer. Miss Karrer was a finalist in the National History Day Competition in Kentucky and recently

represented her state at the national competition.

I had the privilege of meeting Miss Karrer and her family during their visit to Washington, DC.

[National History Day Paper]

WELLS VS. WILLARD

(By Rachel C. Karrer)

Wells and Willard, who were they? The more important question is, 'what did they do?' These two individuals were activists; both were outspoken, uncompromising, and passionate. And both of these activists just happened to be women. Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Frances E. Willard had nothing and everything in common. They came from different backgrounds, different families. They endured different heartaches and tragedies, overcame different odds. They had different educational structures and were even of separate races. No, they weren't anything alike. And yet, they each ended up leading in causes they believed in. Neither let discouragement or setbacks blind them to their goal. Not even when the discouragement and setbacks one woman experienced were caused by the hand of the other. Ida Wells and Frances Willard were influential women in their time, both standing alone to lead in their causes. However, when it came to standing together, one woman to support the other, neither woman was willing to cross the cultural barriers of the time and offer a helping hand, but turned against the other. Because of Wells and Willard's failure to work together, their animosity deeply hindered the progress of the anti-lynching movement.

Ida B. Wells, born a slave, became a respected leader in the anti-lynching movement. Freed from slavery shortly after her birth, Wells' parents, James and Elizabeth Wells, made sure she received an education. (McBride) Wells's mother wanted to be able to read the Bible, so when the Shaw University was established, Elizabeth Wells attended with her children. (McBride) Her father, James Wells, was deeply absorbed in politics and felt especially strong about racial justice. It is likely that it was his interest in those dealings that later inspired his daughter. (McBride)

In 1876, both her parents and one younger sibling died. (McBride) Unwilling to break her family apart, Wells became the caretaker and provider of her five younger siblings at the age of only fourteen. To provide for them, she applied for a teaching position. In 1884, Wells moved to Memphis to take a job as a teacher. (Lavender) During her summer vacations, she furthered her education by attending teachers' training courses at Fisk University. (Lavender) Afterwards, she earned a position as a first grade teacher in the Memphis city schools. (Lavender)

On May 4, 1884, Ida B. Wells's life was altered once again. (McBride) While traveling to Memphis, Wells was told by the conductor to move from the parlor car to the smoking car, which was reserved for people of color. When she refused, he attempted to forcibly remove her. In retaliation, Wells brought a suit against the railroad company and won. (McBride) The taste of victory soured, however, when the Tennessee Supreme Court overruled the decision. (McBride) Even so, this incident sparked something in Wells that eventually spread throughout the American nation and abroad. (Lavender) At this point, Wells began to write.

Her first piece was for *The Living Way*, an African-American church weekly. (McBride) Wells wrote a series of articles criticizing the education provided to African-American children. Ironically, because of her statements, Wells lost her teaching position in

1891. (Lavender) After this, she joined the *Memphis Star* newspaper.

Through her articles, Wells fought for the rights of African-Americans, but in 1892, she began fighting for something even more important; she began fighting for their lives. In March of that year, three African-American men were lynched on false charges. These men were Wells's friends, and the rage inside her began to grow. (Lavender) She attacked lynching, and challenged the actions of whites by writing editorials and giving speeches about the injustices that were being done to the people of her race. She called Memphis, "a town which . . . neither protect[s] our lives and property, nor give[s] us a fair trial in the courts, but takes us out and murders us in cold blood when accused by white persons." (McBride) Wells's outspoken opinions stirred up Memphis, but it was not until she wrote her views on the consensual sexual relationships between white women and African-American men that her newspaper was sacked and destroyed by an angry mob, followed by threats of lynching Wells herself. (McBride) After this, she moved to Chicago.

Though forced to leave Memphis, fear did not stop her from continuing her fight in Chicago and even taking it to Europe. She wrote *Lynch Law in Georgia* (1899), *Lynch Law in America* (1900), and *A Red Record* (1895). These works studied lynchings in America, showing that the number of deaths was astonishing though the reasons were trivial. With these works, Wells was educating the American people by publicizing the cruelties inflicted on African-Americans in the South.

Wells became Wells-Barnett in 1895. (McBride) Following her marriage, many Americans doubted that she would continue in her work, but through matrimony and motherhood, she continued in her cause, leading to protect the rights and the lives of people who had already endured so much.

Like Wells, Frances E. Willard also had a lasting impact in America. Her work resulted in two amendments to the Constitution: one giving women the right to vote and another prohibiting the sale and use of alcohol. (Hedrick)

The daughter of Josiah and Mary Hill, Willard was born in Churchville, New York. (Historical Association) Willard's mother, Mary Thompson Hill, was adamant that her daughter be educated as a lady. (Hedrick) At this time, a lady's education did not encompass in-depth lessons in math or science. (Hedrick) This type of education was made more readily available to young ladies in the 1850s, at which time Willard happily received it. (Hedrick) In 1857, she went to the Milwaukee Normal Institute. The next year, she went to Evanston College for Women in Illinois, now Northwestern University, where she finished out her education. (Hedrick)

Between 1860 and 1874, Willard held many teaching positions in numerous schools. (Hedrick) Her last appointment was head of the women's division at Northwestern University. (Hedrick)

In 1874, at the end of her teaching career, Willard became involved with the Women's Christian Temperance Union. (Historical Association) She participated in its founding convention and was elected corresponding secretary. (Historical Association) Willard became a successful speaker and social reformer, and was influential in the organization of the Prohibition Party. (Historical Association) In 1879, Willard was elected President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and under her leadership it grew to be one of the largest women's organizations in the nineteenth century. (Historical Association)

Both Wells and Willard were recognized and respected among the American people.

But, the truth of the matter is that the Women's Christian Temperance Union was a well-known and influential organization. As president of that organization, Willard's voice and opinion carried a substantial amount of weight, she being a leading figure in deciding which causes the organization would back. Ida Wells was well aware of how the Women's Christian Temperance Union's support could benefit the anti-lynching movement. But, due to the views of race at that time, that support, was not so easily gained. And in seeking it, there was the bad result of a conflict that arose between Willard and Wells. Wells accused the Women's Christian Temperance Union of ignoring the racial problem of the South, having "no word, either of pity or protest." (Wells 5) In return, Willard stated that Wells's "zeal for her race . . . clouded her perception." (Wells 4)

In addition to Willard's seeming indifference, Wells was angered by Willard's comments in reference to the colored race. While Wells fought for the African-American's whose rights were being violated, Willard was sympathetic towards the white race and the trials they were forced to endure. In a New York newspaper, Willard stated, "I pity the southerners. . . . The problem on their hands is immeasurable. The colored race multiplies like the locusts of Egypt." (Willard 9) In the same article she referred to African-Americans as "alien-illiterates," who could "neither read nor write, whose ideas are bounded by the fence of his own field and the price of his own mule." (Willard 9) In Willard's interview she painted whites as victims and the African-Americans as villains. In reality, however, it was the other way around and Wells had years of collected data to prove it.

While traveling abroad to gain sympathy and raise money, Wells was interviewed by the *Westminster Gazette*, a British newspaper. During this interview she related some of the facts she had gathered about the practice of lynching in the United States. For example, four-fifths of lynchings in the United States were practiced on African-Americans and in 1893 and 158 out of 200 lynching victims were African-Americans. (Westminster Gazette) She also stated that of the 158 African-Americans victims only thirty of them were charged with a crime against women or children. (Westminster Gazette) The people that had supposedly committed these crimes were, more often than not, innocent. (Westminster Gazette) But, when it came to lynching, "innocent until proven guilty" were empty words.

Wells felt that Willard and the Women's Christian Temperance Union were indifferent about the issues in the lynching controversy. But, in Willard's 1894 Women's Christian Temperance Union presidential address she defended herself and the organization; "Much apprehension has arisen in the last year concerning the attitude of our union toward the colored people, and an official explanation is in order." (Willard 8) In her explanation she referred to her 1890 interview, in which she stated that the African-American man's "altitude reaches no higher than the personal liberty of the saloon and the power of appreciating the amount of liquor that dollar will buy." (Willard 9) In her address she defended herself saying that she had not intended to discriminate against African-American people. (Willard 8) Willard stated that it was "inconceivable" that the Women's Christian Temperance Union would ever excuse lynching no matter what the circumstances. She also made it a point to make a resolution in regard to the affair: "Resolved, that we are opposed to lynching as a method of punishment, no matter what the crime, and irrespective of the race by which the crime is

committed, believing that every human being is entitled to be tried by a jury of his peers." (Willard 8)

In Willard's address she specifically mentioned Ida Wells and her efforts in the anti-lynching movement. Willard claimed that Wells's ardor for her race was keeping her from recognizing friends from foes. She also talked of Wells's observations concerning the consensual relationships between white women and African-American men. On this point, Wells and Willard's opinions contrasted greatly. It was Wells's belief that many of the "rapes" for which countless African-American men were lynched were actually consensual relationships. Nevertheless, she believed that it was for the white man's pride of race, not for justice or even for the white women's reputation, that sent many African-American males to their death: "You see, the white man has never allowed his women to hold the sentiment 'black but comely' on which he has so freely acted himself." (Westminster Gazette) It was Willard's opinion that with these statements Wells "had put an imputation upon half the white race in this country that [was] unjust, and saving the rarest exceptional instances, wholly without foundation" and with these statements Wells was thwarting her cause. (Willard 6)

By the end of the summer of 1894, Wells was thoroughly displeased with the actions of Willard and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and she had no qualms about expressing her anger. In one of her numerous writings, Wells stated, "the charge has been made that I have attacked Miss Willard and misrepresented the W.C.T.U. If to state the facts is misrepresentation, then I plead guilty to the charge." (Wells 5) In A Red Record, Wells spoke of the resolution made in Willard's Women's Christian Temperance Union presidential address: "Miss Willard gave assurance that such a resolution [of protest against brutality towards colored people] would be adopted, and that assurance was relied on." (Wells 5) But, in the end, these assurances amounted to nothing because during the Women's Christian Temperance Union national meeting in the summer of 1894, no anti-lynching resolutions were passed. (Smith)

With the statements made by Willard, so pointedly, on the behalf of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, why was it that when it came time to act, those promises were not honored? This outcome was the result of the presence of many southern delegates at the meeting and Frances Willard's effort to pacify them. (Smith) By attempting to keep the peace with one party that "great Christian body . . . wholly ignored the seven millions of colored people of this country whose plea was for a word of sympathy and support for the movement in their behalf," (Westminster Gazette) and Ida Wells "greatly regretted" the outcome of this meeting. (Smith) The very next year, in the Baltimore Herald, Willard wrote that they had done the best they could under the circumstances (Smith) but to many Americans it was Wells who gained their sympathy and Willard who was criticized. Willard must have realized this because in 1897, it was written in a Cleveland newspaper that Willard's conduct toward Wells at the national meeting seemed "still to worry her, as it ought to." (Cleveland Gazette)

Lynching went into a decline by the twentieth century. (Abrams) In 1935, only twenty lynchings were reported and by the 1960s, with the enforcement of civil rights laws and changes in racial attitudes, the performance of lynchings died away. (Abrams) Between 1882 and 1968 there were 4,730 lynchings in the United States. (Lynching) Of these, 3,440 were African-American men and women.

(Lynching) However, with Willard's influence, and with her, the support of every member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, racial attitudes might have been altered years before. Prejudices and hate could have been softened, lives could have been saved. If only time wasted arguing could have been spent broadening the horizons of the American people, helping them to see the cruelties they placed on people whose only difference was their race. Perhaps Willard's voice along with Wells' reaching out to the American people would not have accomplished much. But it would have accomplished something. It would have given the anti-lynching movement the boost it needed, the boost it was asking for. True, at a time when "Jim Crow" laws were made specifically to keep the African-American people in a place of inferiority, crossing the lines of segregation and discrimination would have been extremely difficult. But, someone at some point did eventually cross those lines, otherwise we wouldn't be where we are today. Had Ida Wells and Frances Willard joined together, important civil rights movements could have been put into effect much sooner. There is no way to judge the years that were squandered or the lives that could have been saved.

The wills and views of Frances E. Willard and those of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, continued to clash throughout the years, right up until Willard's death in 1898. (Historical Association) Neither woman ever conceded. Wells continued in her campaign for the rights of the African-American people until her death in 1931. (McBride) The women each accused the other of misrepresenting her. But maybe it wasn't misrepresentation. Perhaps it was merely a lack of understanding, or even the desire to understand. When asked why no one in the North protested the racial prejudices in the South and their deadly outcome, Wells' answer was "they are sick and hopeless, and shut their eyes." (Westminster Gazette) Standing where we are today, we can easily judge these two women and say what they should have done. But what we fail to realize is that America then and America now are two very different places. African-Americans were not seen in the same light as they are today. In today's culture we are brought up viewing one another as equals. This is because the leaders of our past shed some light on the flaws of our beliefs in order to change our future. But to do this, they had to be willing to put themselves on the line, to cross the cultural barriers that tried to hold them back. Wells and Willard were leaders, they were respected and had they really tried, they too, could have crossed those barriers. If not for the antagonism between these two very different women, had they not failed to stand together and face America, many eyes could have, and would have, been opened.

HONORING CURTIS M. LOFITS, JR.,
AND THE SALUDA CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my longtime friend, Curtis M. Lofits, Jr., and the Saluda Charitable Foundation. The Saluda Charitable Foundation was founded in 2001 in Columbia, South Carolina, is a faith-based Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to serving people

in need. What began as a one-man effort created and funded by Columbia native Curtis M. Lofits, Jr., has now grown to include dozens of volunteers and associates who have touched thousands of lives across four continents.

Individuals, missionaries, churches, hospitals, and clinics ranging from the United States and Bolivia to Ukraine and India have benefited from the works of Saluda Charitable. The Foundation's efforts in Ukraine produced such great success that the programs there have grown into a stand-alone Ukrainian organization, the Saluda-Temopil Charitable Foundation. Saluda-Temopil has been recognized as one of the finest charitable groups in Ukraine.

Saluda Charitable and Saluda-Temopil recently opened the doors of their largest undertaking, the New Hope Village, in Shelpachy, Ukraine. The New Hope Village is a modern humanitarian mercy center that features a home for the elderly with 24-hour nursing care, daily doctor visits, nutritionist consultations, and community activity programs. The facility has received praise and cooperation from the Ukrainian and United States Governments.

The New Hope Village also features a community center that supports three local villages and a humanitarian aid focal point that dispenses assistance from agencies and churches from the United States and Europe. The facility will soon become home to one of Ukraine's first "foster family" pilot programs. This project opens in August and seeks to alter the traditional system of large and unfriendly government orphanages in favor of more traditional family structures.

I would like to recognize the Saluda Charitable Foundation's contributions and efforts for people in need everywhere. The foundation is an excellent example that goodwill knows no borders. We would all do well to follow their lead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 407—"aye"; and 408—"aye."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes for all of the legislative measures on June 12. If I was present for rollcall votes for the following bills:

251 on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended and pass H. Res. 794—Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the Peoples Republic of China, and for other purposes

252 On Motion to Suspend the rules and agree, as amend and pass H. Res. 804—Condemning the unauthorized, inappropriate, and

coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the Peoples Republic of China

253 On motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amend pass H. Res. 608—Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the Peoples Republic of China

254 On motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended and pass H. Con. Res. 338—Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere

I would have voted “yeas” to all of these bills.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SKI AND SNOWBOARD MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, skiing and snowboarding are exhilarating activities that allow individuals and families to enjoy a natural environment and participate in physical activity.

To help spread this message, I am introducing a resolution urging the president to declare January as National Ski and Snowboard Sports Month.

This resolution notes the increase in adult and childhood obesity along with the negative consequences of overweight and obese people including a decrease in the average life span and rising health care costs stemming from related illnesses. It also highlights the role winter sport activities can play in addressing chronic inactivity and the positive effects of participating in physical activity.

“Ski and Snowboard Month” would remind citizens of the importance to maintain a consistent exercise program and healthy lifestyle twelve months out of the year. Winter sports offer unique opportunities to allow all Americans a chance to be together outside and enjoy the season.

DISASTER RECOVERY PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5013, the Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act of 2006. I was pleased to vote in favor of this bill, which passed the House by a vote of 322–99.

During Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of citizens had their guns confiscated, depriving them of their Second Amendment right to bear arms when they needed it most. H.R. 5013 ensures that this type of confiscation can never happen again. The legislation prohibits the confiscation of legally owned weapons during national emergencies or presidential declared disasters, unless other Federal or State law permits the confiscation. This law applies to Federal officers and employees, including uniformed services, who receive Federal funds, are under the control of the Federal Government, or provide services to such personnel in support of relief efforts.

Additionally, the bill prevents the temporary or permanent seizures of firearms, or the authorization of such seizures; prevents requiring the registration of firearms, if registration is not required by Federal or State law; prevents prohibiting the possession of a firearm, or issuing regulations or orders prohibiting the possession of a firearm if the possession is permitted under law; and prevents prohibiting the carrying of firearms by a person who is otherwise authorized to do so under State or Federal laws solely because that person is operating under the direction, control, or supervision of a Federal agency.

I have been a proud defender of our second amendment right throughout my tenure in Congress. This vote preserves and protects this Constitutional right during times of extreme disasters and emergencies, when the need for law-abiding citizens to exercise their basic right to defend themselves and their families is the greatest. I am pleased to have stood up for those rights by casting my vote in favor of H.R. 5013, the Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF BISHOP GEORGE MOSLEY MURRAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Bishop George Mosley Murray, the founding bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, who passed away earlier this month.

Bishop Murray was the first bishop of the Central Gulf Coast diocese, which encompasses south Alabama and northwest Florida, and for 10 years, he provided steady leadership during a period of change in the Episcopal Church. The diocese prospered under his leadership, growing from 25 parishes in 1971, to 64 congregations today with over 22,000 members. In honor of the first bishop of the diocese, the name Murray House was chosen for the diocesan assisted living facility.

Bishop Murray graduated from the University of Alabama in 1940 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and worked for General Electric in North Carolina for two years. He served four years in the military during World War II with two years aboard the U.S.S. *Pintado*. In 1948, he graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, with a masters of divinity degree. He served five years as Episcopal chaplain at the University of Alabama. Bishop Murray was elected Suffragan Bishop of Alabama in 1953, Bishop Coadjutor of Alabama in 1959, and became the Bishop of Alabama in 1969.

Bishop Murray received honorary degrees of doctor in divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1954 and the University of the South. He also received the Algrenon Sydney Sullivan award, honorary degrees and a doctor of laws degree from the University of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated leader and friend to many in the Gulf Coast area. Bishop George Murray will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Margaret MacQueen Murray;

his children, George Malcolm Murray, William Gerard Murray and Sara Duncan Murray; stepchildren, John C. Rockett, III, Margaret Grace Rockett and James MacQueen Rockett; and grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO TERENCE J. KIVLAN

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, after 28 years covering Capitol Hill for The Staten Island Advance, Terence J. Kivlan is retiring. In an age when many news reporters gravitate to the glamorous national story and use the news to raise their own profiles, Terry, 61, has doggedly followed issues of concern to his hometown readers. His appreciation for Staten Island was evident in his stories, and his words helped educate millions of residents on the daily happenings in Washington. Terry seemed to have a knack for finding the Staten Islander in a crowd. His stories always brimmed with a local flavor and featured the thoughts, opinions and voices of Staten Island residents.

Terry distinguished himself with his reporting on the ABSCAM scandal in the 1970s and his honest and sensitive coverage of the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City. Terry is a throwback to a day of shoe-leather reporting that put a premium on getting out of the office and taking the pulse of the people in the know. His first priority was getting the story for the people of Staten Island and it's a tribute to Terry that he would be proud to be remembered just that way.

TRIBUTE TO THE ANDERSON-DREW FAMILY REUNION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are an integral part of African American life, especially given the fact that many families were separated at will during slavery and has continued throughout history in this country. Of course, reunions are a way of staying intact or of being reconnected in a manner which promotes unit, camaraderie and continuation.

On August 4–6, the Anderson-Drew Families will hold their reunion in Chicago, Illinois, a city founded by an African American, Jean Baptiste Point DeSable, a trapper and settler. It has been home to many world famous and internationally known African Americans such as Mahalia Jackson, Lou Rawls, Minnie Minoso, John Hope Franklin, John H. Johnson, Michael Jordan, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, Oprah Winfrey and Mayor Harold Washington. Being able to concretely trace one's family back to 1876, which was the year that the compromise surrounding the selection of Ruth-erford B. Hayes to become President of the U.S. and the removal of Federal troops from the South is indeed commendable and noteworthy in and of itself.

I take this opportunity to express and convey how valuable it is for families to remain in constant contact with each other and how much it means for the family to function as a unit. Strong families make strong communities, strong communities make cities, strong cities make strong states and strong states make strong nations.

Our Nation is strong because of families like yours. I salute you, commend you on the occasion of your re-union and welcome you to Chicago. Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you because on Friday, August 4th and Saturday, August, 5th, I will be in Detroit, Michigan attending my family reunion and the next week on the 8th and 9th, I will be in Greenwood, MS, visiting with other family members (the Glass family).

Enjoy your family and keep it strong.

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AS VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, 17 days ago, Hezbollah terrorists conducted a raid into Israel, killing three Israeli soldiers and kidnapping two others, igniting serious fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. I rise today to express my strong support for Israel as it defends itself from an increasingly powerful terrorist presence in southern Lebanon.

Israel has taken many meaningful steps in recent years to push the dream of Middle East peace forward, including removing all forces from Lebanon and, just last year, unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza. In return, Israel faces an emboldened Hezbollah, backed and encouraged by Iran and Syria, with an arsenal of 13,000 rockets that it routinely uses to bombard Israeli towns, and Hamas, which controls the Palestinian Authority. Neither group recognizes Israel's right to exist.

The House recently passed H. Res. 921 with my support, which reaffirms Israel's right to defend itself from these attacks. Through this action we have made a clear statement that the United States will stand with Israel while continuing to work with the international community to bring peace to the region.

Mr. Speaker, the current situation, with Iran and Syria enabling Hezbollah to establish an even greater presence in Lebanon is intolerable and a major obstacle to Middle East peace. Any international agreement should focus on removing Hezbollah from that country, per United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559. This is a critical point for Israel and the entire region, and the United States must remain actively engaged in this process.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF THE AVIATION YOUTH ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students and advisors of the Central Missouri State University's Aviation Youth Academy Summer Camp. On Saturday, July 29, 2006, they will celebrate their inaugural graduating class. This camp provides inner-city youth with a unique perspective on potential careers available in aviation. The youth academy has a total of 27 members in the camp, all from the Kansas City metropolitan area, of which, two are graduating this year.

The Aviation Youth Summer Camp focuses on introducing diverse, multicultural, and under-represented children to aviation, by providing hands-on knowledge and exposure to both aeronautical science and flight training. The camp fosters the personal development of leadership, character, physical health, and academic achievement. Their goal is to train the youth of today for the opportunities of tomorrow.

The Aviation Youth Academy Summer Camp is a 7-day residential camp taught by Central Missouri State University's aviation faculty and certified flight instructors. The camp fosters many practical activities with motivational speakers, team-building exercises, diversity training, and exposure to a collegiate environment and academic programs.

Camp participants strive to achieve their goals through collaboration with experts in the field of aviation, including those in the Central Missouri State University Aviation Department. Each student will leave equipped with the knowledge of what is recommended in a high school curriculum in order to study aviation at the college level.

In addition, participants obtain information about college applications, scholarships, and financial aid applications.

Saturday, July 29, 2006, marks a tremendous triumph for the program as the first two students to complete the 3-year program will graduate. Those two students are Brandon Smith, who will be a senior this year at Lee's Summit West High School, and Markhum Rucker, who will be a senior at Heart of America Charter School. They both plan to attend college, benefiting from strong parental support and a great interest in aviation.

These two graduates and the remaining participants honor the noble tradition of the Tuskegee Airmen who walked before them. It was in the skies above Europe over 50 years ago that those brave men fought for equality abroad while lacking it at home. Among those speaking during the Aviation Youth Academy's summer program included Mr. Ormer Rogers, Jr., past president of the Heart of America Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen and Harvey McCormick and Harvey Bayliss, two of the original Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our congratulations to the participants of the Aviation Youth Academy Summer Camp and the faculty and staff of Central Missouri State University for dedicating their time and serv-

ices to the inner-city youth of Kansas City. It is essential for members of the Aviation Youth Academy and other youth organizations to be celebrated and commended for their work. Today, the 109th Congress honors them for their achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALL KINDS OF MINDS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of All Kinds of Minds and its Schools Attuned Program for reaching more than three-quarters-of-a-million students through the 30,000 educators who have participated in its professional development program since it began in 1987.

All Kinds of Minds was co-founded in 1995 by renowned pediatrician Dr. Mel Levine and financier Charles R. Schwab to translate the latest research on the many different ways children learn, into programs, products and services that help struggling students become successful learners. The Institute's programs are based on insights from pivotal medical and educational studies, as well as more than 30 years of clinical experience by Dr. Levine, other faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, experts at All Kinds of Minds, and other leading researchers in the field.

The Schools Attuned Program is a research-based program that educates K-12 teachers about the science of learning. It was designed using the standards of professional development from the National Staff Development Council. Enrolled teachers learn about eight neurodevelopmental constructs that affect learning by participating in a minimum of 35 instructional hours and 10 hours of follow-up experiences.

In addition to focusing on how the brain is "wired," the program examines the different ways students learn, patterns in those differences in learning, and how students' interests and strengths can be used to overcome weaknesses within the regular classroom. The framework and tools provided in the Schools Attuned Program allow parents, teachers and children to work together to conquer student learning differences.

The 30,000 educator mark, which includes over 750 teachers from my home district, was accomplished through the efforts and support of teachers, schools and communities in all 50 States, Canada and Switzerland. The program has also benefited from Federal funding to supplement local educational funds in 15 States; State funding for teacher participation in North Carolina and Oklahoma; a 5-year New York City Department of Education initiative allowing nearly 1,600 educators to take part in the program; and over \$70 million in funds raised since 1995 from private foundations and major philanthropists supporting the Institute nationwide.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Schools Attuned Program for achieving this milestone of training 30,000 teachers to help students succeed in the classroom.

CONGRATULATING THE SATSUMA
LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Satsuma All-Star little league team on winning the Cal Ripken 12-year-old Alabama State Championship, as well as Cal Ripken's Southeast Regional Championship.

Myrick McAll, Wilson McAll, Conner McConaghy, Logan Clifton, Nick Saucier, David Black, Jamie Patterson, Cody Christian, Matthew Peacock, Chase Patterson, Chase Blan, Corey Mosley, and Alex Peacock are all talented young men who exhibited superb discipline, athleticism, and sportsmanship. Special credit also goes to their head coach, Ernie Ray Clifton, and assistant coaches, Tracey Patterson and Glen Peacock, who along with the support and encouragement of the boys' families and friends, help lead the team to become the best in Alabama.

During the State Championship, these 12-year-olds played a very difficult game, which lasted 10 innings. The team showed great perseverance as they displayed their talents on the field.

As if winning the State championship were not enough, these young men went on to compete and dominate the regional competition as well. They now hold the title of Southeast Regional Champions with a 7-3 victory over Winchester, Virginia. Their hometown of Satsuma and all of south Alabama, joins me in saluting this outstanding group of future Hall of Famers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to Myrick, Wilson, Conner, Logan, Nick, David, Jamie, Cody, Matthew, Chase, Corey, Alex, Chase, Coach Clifton, Coach Patterson, and Coach Peacock for their outstanding wins this season. I trust my colleagues will join me in commending the team and wishing them the best of luck as they prepare to compete against other regional winners in Maryland next month.

HONORING DR. RICHARD AMOS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and thank Dr. Richard Amos, Deputy to the Commanding General of the Army Aviation and Missile Command, for his continued service to the defense of our country.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of the Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) at Redstone Arsenal cannot be overemphasized. As a leader in defense technology research and development, the Command has been on the forefront of new and emerging technology for our armed services. It has done a great deal to ensure that the men and women on the battlefield have the most up-to-date war fighting capabilities and the tools they need to safely accomplish their mission. Dr. Amos, a native son of Huntsville, has been the Deputy to the Commanding General of AMCOM since 2004.

Earlier this year, Dr. Amos was awarded the 2005 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive for his work as Deputy Commanding General. This was a much-deserved honor as he has diligently led efforts with Redstone's Commanding General James Pillsbury to ensure that Redstone and the entire North Alabama defense community are continuously evolving to meet the demands of today's warfighter.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Amos' dedication and leadership is well respected throughout the North Alabama community. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of North Alabama, I proudly rise today to commend him on his service and wish him the very best for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
DEANNE IGNACIO TAJALLE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Deanne Ignacio Tajalle, who passed away on Sunday, July 23, 2006, at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, Deanne sustained severe injuries as a result of an explosion that occurred in March while he was servicing a military vehicle as a civilian contractor supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Deanne was born February 27, 1969, to Benjamin S. and Doris Quitugua Tajalle of Columbia, South Carolina, formerly residents of Guam.

I join with our local leaders on behalf of our community on Guam in offering our sincerest condolences to the family of Deanne Tajalle, especially his wife Faapepele Hunkin Tajalle, who is a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army and also an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran, and their three children, Nicole, Victoria, and Dean Junior. Our thoughts and prayers are also with his brother, Benjamin S. Tajalle, Jr., his sisters, Yvonne T. Decker, Candy T. Muna, and Pamela T. Ibanez, and his father-and-mother-in-law, Fuatau and Miriama Hunkin of Nu'uuli, American Samoa.

Our community on Guam appreciates Deanne's service to our country. I join our Pacific island family in honoring his service and his sacrifice. We honor Deanne's commitment to his children, his devotion to his wife, and his dedication to his parents.

The people of Guam extend to the Tajalle and Hunkin families their most heartfelt gratitude and respect during this time of loss. We take this occasion to reflect upon Deanne's character, his service, and his commitment to the United States Army and to his country. May God Bless his family and friends and those whose lives he touched. And may God Bless America.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES PILLSBURY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in North Alabama, I rise today to pay tribute and thank Redstone Arsenal's Commanding General, Major General James Pillsbury, on the service he continues to provide to our national defense.

General Pillsbury was named Commanding General of Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, as well as the Army Aviation and Missile Command, which is located at Redstone, in December of 2003. In addition to the Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone is the home of, among others, the Missile Munitions Center and School, the Redstone Technical Test Center (RTTC), and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

As Commanding General, he has worked to ensure that the entire North Alabama defense community is engaged in efforts to meet the future needs of the Army and the warfighter. In addition, he and his wife Becky, have established a non-profit organization, Still Serving Veterans, which continues to recognize the sacrifice and look for ways to repay the numerous veterans living in North Alabama for their service. The Pillsburys' community outreach and dedication to the entire region have made the North Alabama community a better place to work and live.

Mr. Speaker, the Army has rewarded General Pillsbury's leadership and commitment at Redstone with an extension on his service in North Alabama. His contributions have prepared our community for additional roles and responsibilities. I rise today to commend him on his service and wish him the very best for the future.