

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and humility that I rise today to commemorate the lives of the thousands of victims and heroes of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of those whose lives were needlessly cut short on that day. In addition, I rise to pay tribute to those who have died at the hands of the same threat which brought the September 11th attacks. From 1983, with the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon killing 241 American service members, to the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, killing six, Islamic fascists have continued with attacks against the United States at the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and the USS *Cole* in Yemen. I mention these events because it is essential for Americans to remember that the threat responsible for perpetuating these attacks is the same unending threat against which we are fighting today in the Global War on Terror. This enemy is methodical, patient, determined, and bound by one unifying purpose: the complete annihilation of all who do not subscribe to their warped vision of Islam by pursuing a murderous ideology.

While some setbacks have occurred in our efforts, we have made tremendous progress in confronting this threat, head-on. We must acknowledge the steadfast resolution of the Administration and the commitment and diligence of those in our intelligence community. Over the past 5 years, the Republican-led Congress has spent over \$150 billion on homeland security. Congressional action on a variety of policies has provided those in our intelligence community with the critical tools needed to prevent future terrorist attacks on our homeland. Today, our service men and women are engaging the enemy abroad so the terrorists will not bring their violence to America. Because of the exemplary service of those in our military, the terrorists can no longer establish safe havens in areas of the Middle East where they once roamed freely.

Our message to the families and friends of those who fell on September 11th, is that America remains united in ensuring your sacrifices and those of your loved ones were not made in vain. America will always cherish the memories of these heroes and will remain committed to defending the principles for which this Nation stands, including principles as fundamental as individual liberty, justice, and the rule of law.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Ohio (HCCO), as they celebrate 25 years of promotion and support of the economic growth and development for Hispanic business owners.

The HCCO was formed in 1981 to address the glaring absence of Hispanic-owned businesses in American society. Concerned, motivated and determined, a small group of Hispanic business owners united forces to incorporate the HCCO as a recognized non-profit in 1983. The membership and scope of services of the HCCO has grown, yet the mission has remained the same—to focus on providing assistance, services and support to local Hispanic business owners.

Over the past quarter century, HCCO has vastly evolved from its diminutive beginnings to a viable coalition of business owners that represent the interests and memberships of more than 7,500 Hispanic-owned businesses in the State of Ohio. The HCCO provides a wide range of support services, including: the sponsorship of seminars, workshops and networking luncheons and dinners; technical assistance and support; discounts on medical and dental benefits; and a wide range of support services for individuals interested in starting their own business.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Ohio, as they celebrate 25 years of service and promotion of economic justice for Americans of Hispanic heritage. As they work together to create avenues of business opportunity for Hispanic Americans, the pathways to economic security and stability for every American is elevated from a vision, to reality.

IN HONOR OF LUIS ALEJO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Luis Alejo on being awarded the 2005 Democrat of the Year for Santa Cruz County, given by the Democratic Central Committee, DCC, of Santa Cruz. Luis is an amazing young man with many attributes that make him a perfect candidate for this special award. He is a passionate, zealous, and intelligent person with a drive to educate and assist those who need it the most.

Luis' academic achievements help him work to better the community and residents of

Santa Cruz County. Luis, a native of Watsonville, California, received dual B.A. degrees from UC Berkeley in 1997 and his Juris Doctorate (JD) from UC Davis School of Law in 2001. He received his master's degree in education from Harvard University in 2003. His academic accomplishments led him back home, where he has been an active member of the community.

After graduating from Harvard, Luis came back to Watsonville where he became a staff attorney for California Rural Legal Assistance, CRLA. While working at the CRLA, Luis worked on education, housing, public benefits and civil rights cases on behalf of low-income families and residents. Luis has always been a champion for empowering those who feel their rights have been violated. Luis has also worked to educate people on the rights given to them as laid out in the Constitution.

Luis brought his passion into the classroom as a high school teacher in Watsonville. As a former teacher he continues to inspire Watsonville youth as the director of the Student Empowerment Project. Luis later became a member of the California advisor committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, of which he was nominated by a former California Supreme Court Justice, Cruz Reynoso. As a civil rights activist, he has been the point person for distributing valuable information to Watsonville residents about the process and requirements to become naturalized citizens.

As a member of the DCC, Luis has worked tirelessly to modify by-laws and endorsement policies and procedures within the organization. He is currently in charge of the endorsement program for all the political races for 2006 in Santa Cruz County. As the Watsonville representative of the DCC, Luis has effectively organized Watsonville residents in order to unite them on Democratic causes through the creation of the Pajaro Valley Cesar Chavez Democratic Club.

Luis is currently the chair of the Pajaro Valley Cesar Chavez Democratic Club. The Pajaro Valley community points to Luis as the key person who has brought inspiration and resources to Watsonville. He also spearheaded a registration drive targeting voters in order to educate them on how to get their voices heard.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge Luis Alejo. He has proven himself to be a person who works for the people of the community, and his hard work has changed Santa Cruz County for the better. He continues to educate people, and for that I acknowledge him today.

DR. G.S. AULAKH WINS INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE AWARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the President of the Council of

• 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.

Khalistan, whom many of us know, has been awarded the International Peace Prize Award by Dal Khalsa USA. It was awarded for his tireless efforts in support of peace in South Asia and freedom for the Sikh nation. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Aulakh on this prestigious award and congratulate Dal Khalsa on selecting such a worthy honoree. Dr. Aulakh has worked for over 20 years to free the Sikh nation from oppression that has taken the lives of more than a quarter of a million Sikhs and left over 52,000 as political prisoners. He has worked with many of us here in Congress on both sides of the aisle to expose this repression and free his people.

Mr. Speaker, we should help this struggle by declaring our support for a free and fair plebiscite in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and wherever they are seeking the kind of freedom that we enjoy, and we should stop giving aid and trade to India until it stops oppressing its people.

I would like to insert the press release on Dr. Aulakh's award into the RECORD.

DR. AULAKH RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 12, 2006.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, received the International Peace Prize Award on August 27 from Dal Khalsa of America, headed by Sardar Paramjit Singh Sekhon. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Fremont Gurdwara in Fremont, California. He was nominated for this prestigious award by Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs. According to a Dal Khalsa USA press release, he was given the award "for his tireless service to preserve peace in South Asia in particular and the world in general." The release cites Dr. Aulakh for "continuing the Sikhs' struggle to regain their lost sovereignty, independence, and political power, by peaceful means."

The award was presented for Dr. Aulakh's continuing efforts to internationalize the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent Sikh struggle for independence and the human rights violations against the Sikhs in India. He has been a tireless worker for the cause of Sikh freedom. Dr. Aulakh has raised awareness of the massive human-rights violations in India.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women, and elderly since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khalra was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures

of the last few years the murder of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

The MASR report states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. "We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners," said Dr. Aulakh. "Why are there political prisoners in a democracy?"

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

"Sikhs and other minorities cannot live under Indian rule," said Dr. Aulakh. "The actions of the Indian government have made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs or other minorities such as Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and others in India's Hinduocracy," he said. Dr. Aulakh took note of the charges filed against 35 Sikhs for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag. "Clearly India is scared of the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement for freedom inside and outside Punjab, Khalistan," he said.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and raise the standard of living for the people of Punjab," said Dr. Gurmit Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JORDAN PITTMAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Jordan Pittman of Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Pitt-

man has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Pittman has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Jordan Pittman, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

VALLEJO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra as it celebrates its 75th season, 2006–2007.

The mission of the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra, VSO, is to present performances of symphonic music of the highest possible artistic excellence for the citizens of Vallejo and all of Solano County; to cultivate and nurture the appreciation and enjoyment of classical music in people of all ages; and to serve and shape the musical, cultural, and educational interests of the people of Vallejo and Solano County. The VSO engages guest artists of national and international renown so Solano County residents can enjoy them in live performance. The VSO sends its musicians to perform in public schools so children may experience and learn about live classical music.

The Vallejo Symphony, seventh oldest symphony orchestra in California, traces its roots to the early days of the Great Depression, when a small group of community leaders determined that local musicians needed a showcase for their talents and that other members of the community would be enriched by attending live performances of timeless music. On February 21, 1931, a 60-piece orchestra conducted by Julius Weyland made its debut in the auditorium of the city's newly dedicated Veterans Memorial Building. Concerts were presented throughout the decade with Mr. Weyland and George Trombley conducting the orchestra during these formative years.

Activity lessened, then ceased during World War II until 1946, when the Vallejo Symphony was revitalized under the auspices of the Vallejo Recreation District and the Adult Education Department. Dr. Orley See became its conductor at that time. In 1951, Viril M. Swan took the conductor's baton to lead the orchestra until 1961, when Dr. George Wargo began his 21-year career as music director and conductor. The sixties saw the independence of the orchestra established, a subscription concert series launched, and supportive fundraising activities begun by the Symphony Association's board of directors. During the following decade, artistic goals for the orchestra were set, and an annual Major Gifts Campaign was established to support a professional orchestra and expand the concert season.

The 1980s saw a dramatic improvement in the quality of the orchestra and programming

when David Ramadanoff, a former associate conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and winner of the 1980 Leopold Stokowski Conducting Award, accepted the position of music director and conductor. Under his dynamic leadership, the Vallejo Symphony has developed into an urban orchestra of regional importance, attracting some of the finest musicians in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1983 the VSO became completely professional. In 1993 the orchestra visited Vallejo's sister city of Akashi, Japan. In 1997 the VSO hosted the West Coast premiere of Hannibal's concert opera "African Portraits." Hannibal spent the week in Vallejo public schools with students.

The Vallejo Symphony now performs a four-concert subscription season and an annual Summer Pops concert each Fourth of July. As part of its commitment to the musical experience of Solano County's children, the orchestra performs youth concerts for the elementary school children of Vallejo, and presents its popular series of intimate, entertaining and educational mini-concerts in elementary schools throughout the county.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra for its many contributions to the Vallejo community and wish its members many more years of outstanding performances.

REMARKS ON THE DEATH OF
SHAMIL BASAYEV

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2006, one of the world's greatest terrorists, Shamil Basayev was killed during a special operation by Russian Security Services. Basayev represented the radical aspect of the Chechen rebel movement. The movement began as a secular fight for independence and has become overrun by Islamic extremists. Russia claims that Basayev's efforts have now been supported by international terror networks like al-Qaeda.

For more than 10 years, Basayev, designated as a terrorist by both the United States and the United Nations, was the mastermind behind the most horrific attacks on the Russian people. His reign of terror includes the seizure of a hospital in Budyonovsk in southern Russia in 1995 that killed approximately 100. He attacked a theater in Moscow in 2002 where dozens of hostages died. And most tragically and horrific in its cowardice, he abducted a school in Beslan in 2004, where 331 people died, more than half of them schoolchildren.

Basayev was set to strike again, but the Russian government stopped him in his tracks. Russian security officials engaged in a special operation that used information gained from tracking weapons and explosive shipments from abroad. They linked this information to plans for a terrorist attack in southern Russia intended to coincide with a meeting of the Group of 8 leaders.

Before his death, in his last known statement in public, Basayev was said to express "great thankfulness" for the insurgents in Iraq who killed 5 Russian diplomats.

Terrorism is an affront to civilized people the world over. We in New York and the United

States know the bloody price of terrorism. This represents a small victory in the global war on terrorism. Civilized society cannot rest until terrorism is stamped out once and for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SANCTUARY OF ROANOKE, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke, Alabama, which is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their sanctuary on October 1, 2006.

In 1836, the Randolph Mission was created and serves today as the earliest recording of a place for Methodists to worship in Roanoke. In 1870, the church joined the newly organized North Alabama Conference. The First United Methodist Church of Roanoke continues to be a part of the conference today.

From 1906 to 1908, George Stoves served as pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke during a rapid period of growth in the town and during construction of their present church. Stoves is recognized for designing the beautiful building.

The celebration will include opening the corner stone, memorializing a newly renovated kitchen, and paying off the mortgage of their family life center.

I salute the members of the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke, Alabama, for reaching this important milestone in the history of Roanoke, and congratulate the church family on their sanctuary's 100th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF EMILY STUART

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Emily Stuart. Throughout her lifetime, Mrs. Stuart brightened the lives of family and friends in the community of Parma, Ohio.

As a kind and active citizen, Mrs. Stuart played an integral role in local politics. She was a member of the Parma Democratic Club and the Woman's Democratic Club. Mrs. Stuart revolutionized the process of communication between constituents by devising a system of post cards to collect contact information. In addition, she spent countless hours making phone calls and posting yard signs for local politicians. During her involvement in local politics, she herself rose to the ranks of precinct committeewoman; a position she maintained for more than 20 years.

But Mrs. Stuart is not just an integral part of Parma politics. From her home on Harold Avenue, she has enjoyed 43 years of marriage to her loving husband, Joe Stuart. Together they became involved in committees and clubs across northeast Ohio. Her brothers, Edward

and Stephen Mazur and sister Janice Warner along with many nieces and nephews are among the many family members touched by Mrs. Stuart's delightful stories and laughter.

While the world changed dramatically over the course of Mrs. Stuart's lifetime, she believed in maintaining the traditions of her Polish ancestry. Mrs. Stuart contributed to the culture of Parma by joining the Polish Legion of American Veterans. Close friends say she welcomed any and every opportunity to speak her native language.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Emily Stuart; a beloved family member and friend. Over the years, her dedication to service brought joy to the lives of so many, including mine.

INTRODUCTION OF "RECONSTRUCTION AND STABILIZATION CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT ACT"

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. SAXTON and I are pleased to introduce the House companion bill to S. 3322, the Lugar-Biden bill, "Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act," that unanimously passed the Senate in May 2006.

According to the Defense Science Board, since the end of the cold war, the U.S. has begun stabilization and reconstruction operation once every 18–24 months. This frequency of engagement reflects the reality that U.S. national security is more threaten by failing and ungoverned states than traditional threats. We only have to look to Afghanistan and southern Lebanon to see the far-reaching consequences of ungoverned territory.

The complexities of failed states cannot be dealt with by military solution alone. Combating failed states requires a complex combination of political, diplomatic, development assistance and military actions, as well as the ability to respond quickly in the immediate aftermath of crisis. The military plays an extremely important role in stabilizing a country, but civilians play an equally important role and have comparative advantage in helping to develop civil society—judicial systems, law enforcement, health care, economic development, trade promotion and other essential sectors to stabilize a country.

The Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act would lay the legislative framework for authorizing this integral civilian capacity. Specifically, the Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act would:

Authorize the establishment of the State Department Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, S/CRS, and expenditures for a Crisis Response Fund for a Conflict Response Corps, and for educational, training, planning and operational capacity for S/CRS.

Authorize the establishment of a 250 person Civilian Response Corps with both Active-Duty and Reserve components. The corps, made up of both State Department and USAID employees, could be rapidly deployed with the military for both initial assessments and operational purposes. They would be the first civilian team on the ground in post-conflict situations, well in advance of the establishment of an embassy.

Seek to establish personnel exchange programs with other federal agencies designed to enhance stabilization and reconstruction capacity.

Importantly, the bill promotes a stabilization and reconstruction curriculum and the utilization of already existing programs like the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation that would greatly assist in improving the capacity of our government to respond to some of the most important and pressing security threats of our time.

SIKHS CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently published an open letter showing that the effort to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation is closer than ever to success. It took note of the speeches and the raising of the flag in support of Khalistan, of the seminar that was given that promoted Khalistan, and numerous other activities that have moved forward the peaceful effort to liberate Khalistan.

The letter argues that Khalistan is the only issue facing the Sikhs. It cites examples of people living in tyranny who put their differences aside to oust the tyrants and urges the Sikh nation to learn from those examples and do the same. It calls on the political leaders in Punjab, Khalistan, to focus their attention on the issue of liberating Khalistan from Indian occupation rather than the lesser issues that so often command their attention.

I recommend this letter highly, Mr. Speaker. It provides an excellent overview of the situation in Punjab, Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, we must do our part to ensure freedom to the people of Khalistan and all the oppressed people of south Asia and the world. This is critical if we are proclaiming the American values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, which are cornerstones of American foreign policy. In pursuit of that goal, we should end our aid to India and our trade with India until it respects the basic human rights of all people under its control, treating them fairly, equally, and with dignity. And we should actively support democracy for the people of Khalistan and all the occupied nations, such as Kashmir, Nagalim, and others, in the form of democracy and self-determination. They should have a free and fair vote on their status, the democratic way. Does India have a problem with democracy for the people it rules? If so, it is not worthy of our support.

I would like to put the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues and the American people.

SIKH LEADERSHIP MUST UNITE TO FREE
KHALISTAN

AUGUST 14, 2006.

DEAR KHALSA JI: As I write this letter, we are again approaching Indian Independence Day. Although it is a celebration for the uppercaste Hindus, it is a black day on the calendar for Sikhs and other minorities suffering under the boot of Indian repression. Over 52,000 of our Sikh brothers and sisters

remain in illegal Indian custody as political prisoners without charge or trial. More than a quarter of a million of our fellow Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government. Similar genocide has been inflicted on Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. Is this what India celebrates? Are they celebrating bloodshed, violence, brutality, and tyranny? Unfortunately, that is the way it looks. How does a democracy justify that kind of celebration?

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. The arrests last year and earlier this year of Sikh activists, mostly from Dal Khalsa, merely for raising the Khalistani flag and making pro-Khalistan speeches shows that the movement to free our homeland is on the rise. It has gotten the attention of the world. The seminar organized by former Member of Parliament Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, who has publicly asked why we can't have Khalistan, also moved the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward. We are closer to freedom than ever before, despite the ongoing repression.

Recently, a coalition of Sikh leaders led by Simranjit Singh Mann has come together to oppose both Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and Parkash Singh Badal. While it is good to oppose both of these leaders, who are puppets of the brutal Indian regime, the small, incremental proposals that the Mann-led coalition is making do little to solve the basic problems of the Sikh Nation. The real issue is Khalistan. That is why these 35 Sikhs face charges from the Indian government for raising the Khalistani flag and speaking for Khalistan, not merely for opposition to Badal and Amarinder. As worthwhile as it may be to oppose them, it is diverting the attention of the Sikh Nation from the real issue of Khalistan.

India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. We must redouble our efforts to free our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh Nation. This is a direct challenge to the Sikh leadership, irrespective of their party affiliation. Yet the new coalition wants to practice politics as usual, within the Indian system. That will never achieve freedom, dignity, security, or prosperity for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan. They must speak out forcefully for Khalistan or their efforts are useless. Please do not waste the Sikh Nation's time on other issues that divert our attention from liberating Khalistan. Those issues can and should be dealt with after Khalistan is free. But until then, no other issue matters to the future of the Khalsa Panth.

Other nations that have faced repression have taught us the lesson that these politicians need to learn. When Nicaragua suffered under a repressive government in the 1980s, the opposition factions put aside their differences and worked together to free the people from the repression of the Ortega regime. A similar thing is happening in other countries around the world today. They know that these differences, as important as they may be, are for a later day. First, they must secure freedom.

Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedicated to the cause of Sikh freedom. But we should only support sincere, dedicated, honest leaders. The Council of Khalistan has stood strongly and consistently for liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. For over 20 years we have led this fight while others were trying

to divert the resources and the attention of the Sikh Nation away from the issue of freedom in a sovereign, independent Khalistan.

Mr. Mann is not trustworthy. He is conniving with the Indian government. His letter pledging support for "the constitution and territorial integrity of India" is reproduced on page 185 of Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism. Last year, he was escorted around America by Amarjit Singh. At a Vaisakhi celebration in New York in 2000, he called for the Council of Khalistan office to be closed. He has accused Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon and me of being Indian government agents!

All factions of the Akali Dal are to be viewed with suspicion. The Akali Dal has lost all its credibility. The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikh during June 1984 in Punjab. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Akali leaders also walked out when I predicted at a seminar around the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday that Khalistan will soon be free, a prediction that was greeted with multiple enthusiastic shouts of "Khalistan Zindabad." How will these Akalis account for themselves? Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

Never forget that the Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 25 years. Over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! More than a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government. Another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Even now, the capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, has not been handed over to Punjab, but remains a Union Territory. How can Sikhs have any freedom living under a government that would do these things?

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo labelling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India.

How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Let us work to make certain that 2006 is the Sikh Nation's most blessed year by making sure it is the year that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan,

so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JORDAN
APPLEHANS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Jordan Applehans of Parker, Colorado. Ms. Applehans has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Applehans has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Jordan Applehans, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BERNICE KING-HILL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Mrs. Bernice King-Hill on July 18, 2006. For more than 30 years Bernice "Bea" King-Hill faithfully served the community of her church and the city of Richmond, California. For her church group, Mrs. Hill was a social worker and teacher of great capacity and compassion. For the people of Richmond and Contra Costa County, she was a dedicated leader who gave of herself to the community with sincerity, commitment, and strength.

Bernice Hill was born on August 31, 1924, in Mobile, Alabama, and raised, along with her four siblings and their nine cousins, by the late Joe West and Georgia King-West. For her advanced degree, Mrs. Hill attended the Nannie H. Burroughs Religious School in Washington, DC, and the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. By 1955, Mrs. Hill had moved to Oakland, California, in the San Francisco Bay Area and begun what was to be a 30-year career of service. Since 1955, Mrs. Hill worked for our community in the various capacities of service, education, non-profit work, administration, and religious counsel.

For 5 years, Mrs. Hill owned and operated B-Nolas Fine Foods which served the schools and the medical centers in the community of Berkeley. Since then, Mrs. Hill held many different positions within the community beginning with her work as founder and director of the non-profit Senior Extension Center in Richmond, California. She was also a manager for the Contra Costa County nutrition program for several years during this period. Mrs. Hill served on the Advisory Council for Aging as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies

Auxiliary, 761st Tank Battalion, Post 8399, for which she was the president.

More recently, Bernice Hill served on the Board of Children's Council in Richmond, California, and as the Administrative Assistant to Senior Legislators of California under Carolyn Ashe Stokes. Mrs. Hill was also the Chairperson of the Progressive District Association and Senior Citizen Department as well as a teacher for the California State Baptist Convention.

During these many years, Mrs. Hill pursued her religious service with the same devotion and selflessness that marked her professional work. Her service to the religious community at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church included passionate and dedicated work as a teacher for the church's Sunday School, the Baptist Training Union, and the Ester Circle of the General Missionary Society.

Throughout her many years of service to the people of our district, Mrs. Hill maintained her direction and independence. She was hard-working with a unique honesty and heart yet she was never afraid to challenge those who sought to exploit her or her effort. She believed in self-responsibility and forgiveness and she not only built her work on these values, but also inspired them in others. Her goddaughters Leona Sims and Nola Pyle are fine examples of her commitment and integrity. Her home will go to the Senior Extension Center to continue her legacy.

To Bernice Hill's family and friends, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Their loss is shared not only by those who knew Mrs. Hill but also by all those who have been touched by the work she has done. We will be forever grateful for the courage, compassion, and integrity with which she sought to make our community, and our country, a better place for all of us. We are so grateful to Mrs. Hill's family and church for sharing her with us for so many years.

REMARKS ON CONDEMNING THE
ACTIONS OF THE LIBERATION TI-
GERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2006, a homicide bomber drove his explosive-laden motorcycle into a car carrying Major General Parami Kulatunga, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, killing him instantly. While they deny responsibility, this act mirrors many terrorist attacks carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

This is another unfortunate event in the constant struggle between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE. Sri Lanka and the United States share a good friendship, with Sri Lanka as Asia's oldest democracy. While on the other hand, the LTTE is a group that the Secretary of State has designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

One possible step in mitigating this violence is for the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers to renegotiate a cease-fire agreement. This must be done in a successful manner so the hostilities do not resume. However, with the LTTE's refusal to renounce violence, this peace process is constantly in jeopardy. Tragically, the number of violent acts the

LTTE has committed since the peace agreement with Government of Sri Lanka has only increased.

While it has been the United State's policy to encourage peace through negotiation, if the violence continues, the State Department should consider taking more aggressive steps in aiding the Government of Sri Lanka's fight against the LTTE. It is in the interest of the United States to ensure that the LTTE renounces violence, primarily so all Sri Lankans can live in peace, but also so the LTTE's reign of terror does not spread. Reports have indicated that the LTTE had ties with al Qaeda. Furthermore, the LTTE has at least a dozen oceangoing vessels with which they have honed waterborne terrorist tactics not unlike what occurred with the USS *Cole* bombing.

The Government of Sri Lanka is a friend to the United States, and I stand by the commitment to ensure that friendship lasts well into the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY E.
HARVEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to Mr. Gary E. Harvey, a constituent of mine who has dedicated his life to serving our Nation in uniform. Mr. Harvey was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, and served from 1958 to 1961 as a member of the Royal Canadian Armored Corps. In May 1961, Mr. Harvey enlisted in the United States Army and was commissioned at the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1965.

Mr. Harvey has served two tours in Vietnam. He has also worked as Executive Officer at the Anniston Army Depot; Assistant Professor of Military Science at Marion Military Institute; Operations Officer at the U.S. Army Chemical School; and Deputy Director and Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, Security and Reserve Component Support and Base Transition Coordinator at Fort McClellan in Alabama.

Mr. Harvey has received numerous awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and Vietnam Campaign Medal with five campaign stars.

I salute Mr. Harvey for his continued efforts today to help serve and protect our country, and for proudly serving our Nation for the past 45 years.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
RAMON TORRES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Ramon A. Torres upon retiring from his position as Executive Director of the Multilingual Multicultural Education Office in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Torres was raised in Coamo, Puerto Rico where he attended the Barrio Pedro Garcia School from kindergarten to seventh grade. At age 11, he moved to Cleveland to join family members and attend St. Augustine Elementary School. With limited proficiency in English, Mr. Torres overcame many challenges in order to assimilate to life in the United States. His hard work and perseverance enabled him to attend Cleveland State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Education and a Masters of Education in Secondary School Administration and Supervision.

During his career as an educator, Mr. Torres served and inspired students in the Cleveland Public Schools for 29 years. In the community, Mr. Torres assumed responsibilities such as Project Manager and Education Teacher Consultant of Bilingual Education Programs and Latin American Cultures. Mr. Torres also served as President of Woodmen of the World Fraternal Lodge and on the Hispanic Steering Council at Cuyahoga Community College.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ramon A. Torres. After making many notable contributions to education and the community, may he enjoy a peaceful and rewarding retirement.

DAL KHALSA USA HOLDS
SEMINAR ON KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, Dal KHALSA USA held a seminar in support of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. It was a significant demonstration of the continuing support that the Sikh people have for freedom for their homeland. Paramjit Singh Sekhon and Gagandeep Singh, who lead Dal KHALSA USA and organized the seminar, are to be congratulated. Speakers, included Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Dr. Ajit Pal Singh Sandhu, and Dr. Arjinder Singh Sekhorn.

Freedom is a dream that people all over the world share and we should be encouraging it, Mr. Speaker. Both here and in Punjab, support for Khalistan is on the rise and getting more visible.

As the beacon of liberty in the world, it is our duty to encourage people who are reaching for freedom. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. But in India, all that elections do for minorities is to change the faces of the oppressors. The time has come to go on record in support of a democratic vote on freedom for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the minority nations of South Asia. And we should stop our aid to India and our trade until human rights are respected.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued a press release on the seminar. I would like to add it to the RECORD.

DAL KHALSA USA HOLDS SEMINAR ON
KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Dal KHALSA USA held a seminar on Khalistan in Fremont, California

from August 25 to August 27, The seminar focused on the need to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, from Indian occupation. Khalistan is the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Speakers included Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, Dr. Ajit Pal Singh Sandhu, Colonel Arjinderpal Singh Sekhon (US Army Reserve), and others. The seminar was organized by Sardar Paramjit Singh Sekhon, President of Dal KHALSA USA, and Sardar Gagandeep Singh, General Secretary of Dal KHALSA USA.

The speakers addressed the need for the Sikh Nation to reclaim its lost sovereignty and escape from the oppression of the Indian government, which has murdered over 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women, and elderly since 1984, as well as more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khalra was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to Justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra. The only witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a piece of paper to then-British Home Secretary Jack Straw. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian governments murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

The MASR report states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistan flag. "How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?" asked Dr. Aulakh.

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the

Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Recently, militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto and the school there. 13 Catholic schools remain closed and a spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school!

The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The most important mosque in India, the Sabri Mosque, was destroyed by militant Hindu fundamentalists who have never been held responsible for their actions.

"I am honored to be a speaker at this seminar and very pleased that Dal KHALSA USA is holding these activities to focus the attention of America and the world on the plight of the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan and the need for a sovereign, Independent Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said.

Dr. Aulakh stressed his commitment to the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan. "The only way that the repression will stop and Sikhs will live in freedom, dignity and prosperity is to liberate Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHELBY
INGLE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Shelby Ingle of Centennial, Colorado. Ms. Ingle has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Ingle has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Shelby Ingle, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH
THE INDIAN PEOPLE IN THE
WAKE OF THE MUMBAI TER-
RORIST BOMBINGS

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2006 seven separate bombs were detonated throughout the train network in India's cultural capital, the city of Mumbai. More than 180 people were killed, and over 900 were injured. The bombs exploded simultaneously during the evening rush hour resulting in an entire shut down of the rail network which stranded hundreds of thousands of commuters. The terrorists may have hit a target with high practical and psychological impact, but I am confident that the people of India will again stand tall and not relent to such senseless and unfathomable violence.

Following the attacks, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the incidents as a "shocking and cowardly attempt to spread a feeling of hatred." Even Pakistani leaders condemned the blasts as a "despicable act of terrorism."

The tragedy continued even after the bombing, with an eyewitness reporting that some of the dazed survivors who had jumped from the train after the blast were run over by another train coming in the opposite direction.

Undoubtedly, the hospitals in Mumbai were swamped with casualties.

Many parallels can be drawn between Mumbai and New York City. Mumbai is home to 17 million people, and is headquarters to many big Indian companies and foreign multinationals, with property prices among the most expensive in the world. Both Mumbai and New York have been attacked more than once by terrorists. In 1993 New York saw the first bombing of the World Trade Center, and in the same year 250 people were killed in Mumbai from bombings throughout the city.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to remind the people of India, as partners in a civilized world, America will not stand for senseless terrorism and together we can fight this evil until it no longer impedes the advancement of society.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING RE-
FORM IN THE HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H. Res. 1003, a rule providing that, upon its adoption, H. Res. 1000, providing for earmarking reform in the House of Representatives is hereby adopted.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering an important reform that members of both parties have supported. In fact, it was a key provision in the House-passed Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act. Specifically, with this new rule, member-directed spending to projects in their district, or earmarks, will no longer be anonymous.

As it stands now, there are no disclosure requirements for earmarks in appropriations, tax and authorizing legislation. Earmarks can be buried in the text of bills that often number into the thousands of pages. There is no easy way to account for how many earmarks are in a bill and who is sponsoring them.

This new rule requires sponsors of earmarks to be listed in committee reports. Conference reports must also have a list of earmarks that are "airdropped" into the agreement.

We are blowing away the fog of anonymity so the public can have a clear picture of what the projects are, how much they cost and who is sponsoring them. This is a victory for fiscal responsibility and a victory for spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

As an enforcement mechanism, this new rule also provides for a question of consideration when a bill or conference report does not contain a list of earmarks. The question of consideration is debatable for 30 minutes—15 minutes equally divided.

If a Member feels strongly enough about a proposed earmark, they will have to attach their name to it. And they need to be prepared to make their case in full view of their colleagues and constituents.

Mr. Speaker, while the report to accompany H. Res. 1000 addressed several issues regarding the implementation of this new rule, I believe that it is important to further clarify how this rule will operate after its adoption.

First, this rule will become effective immediately upon its adoption. Any report filed by a committee from that point forward should address this new rule. If there are earmarks in the bill or report, they should be listed appropriately; if there are none, I would encourage the committee chairmen to include a statement to that effect, as is often the current practice with other reporting requirements under rule XIII.

Secondly, with regard to measures in conference, we recognize that the exact requirements of the resolution may be problematic given that this rule was not in place at the point of House consideration. We believe that it is important that committee chairmen make a good faith effort to comply with the spirit of the rule, and would regard inclusion of a list of earmarks which were not in either the House or Senate bill or their accompanying reports, i.e. "airdropped" earmarks, as meeting the intent of this new rule.

Mr. Speaker, the earmark reform will build on the reforms already being implemented by the Appropriations Committee—reforms that have reduced the number of earmarks this year by 37 percent. Overall, spending on member projects was reduced \$7.8 billion below last year. Over the last 2 years, Member project spending has decreased by over \$10 billion.

I want to thank Chairman LEWIS and the Appropriations Committee for making significant progress in reining-in government spending.

I also want to make very clear that our focus is not solely on appropriations. For the reform to be effective, it must be comprehensive, and that was the commitment made by Speaker HASTERT and the leadership of the House. So let me point out that this earmark reform applies across the board. It does not just apply to some committees. It covers all committees and all appropriations, tax and authorizing legislation that moves through regular order.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken great care to clearly and precisely state what constitutes a tax, an appropriations and an authorizing earmark. And the good news is that there is more agreement than disagreement on these definitions. Yet clearly, there's no magic bullet. There is not going to be one definition that will be perfect and please everybody. But at the end of the day, we have to come together and move this process forward. If there's an earmark in a bill, it belongs on a list. It's just that simple.

Now, is this new disclosure going to completely end the practice of earmarking? No. But it will shine a spotlight on earmarks without grinding the legislative process to a halt.

And let me make very clear that the larger goal of this new rule is to make a profound and lasting change in how this institution handles earmarks and spends taxpayer dollars. The goal is to increase transparency and accountability. And the goal is to pull back the curtain on earmarks for the public, who have every right to know.

For this earmark reform to be both meaningful and lasting, everyone, from committee chairman on down, must make a good faith effort to comply with the spirit of the new rule. Our leadership—and certainly the Rules Committee—has made such a commitment. We are determined to make this work.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that while this is an important milestone on the path toward reform, we have not reached the goal-line. Reform is a continuous process. It gains momentum from members who never let up and never settle for the status quo. I urge my colleagues to vote yes for reforming earmarks and yes to setting the stage for more reforms down the road.

RECOGNIZING GLORIA R.
RODRIGUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gloria R. Rodriguez. As a health care professional for over 27 years, Ms. Rodriguez has spent much of her career working to eliminate health disparities in minority and disadvantaged communities. Currently, Ms. Rodriguez serves as the CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) which represents 43 health centers and clinics throughout the county.

Gloria was born in Culver City, California and raised in the San Fernando Valley. She attended San Jose State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Education. Ms. Rodriguez later received her Masters of Public Health degree in Public Policy and Administration at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Ms. Rodriguez spent much of her career working with various community health-related organizations in Washington State. She served as CEO for the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers (W ACMHC), the State's primary care trade/membership association, and founded the Alliance for Multi-Cultural Health in Tacoma. She also served as the Assistant Director for the

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries and CEO of the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers. In each of these capacities, Ms. Rodriguez focused on capacity building, community development and workforce development as means to eliminate healthcare disparities in minority and disadvantaged communities. She also worked to bridge the gap between health care providers and the communities they serve.

Beyond her involvement in community health organizations, Ms. Rodriguez has 15 years experience in direct patient care in a wide range of roles, including cardiology technician, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, and lab technician. She has also worked as a health care educator and has served on a vast array of board and task forces.

Ms. Rodriguez's dedication to eliminating health disparities and providing quality health care services to her community is both admirable and inspiring. I am proud to recognize Ms. Rodriguez and her many accomplishments and wish her the best as she continues to serve the community.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR JAMES HAROLD CHENEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize Command Sergeant Major James Harold Cheney, United States Army, as he completes a distinguished tour of duty in the United States Army.

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) James H. Cheney entered the United States Army on September 8, 1976, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since joining the U.S. Army, CSM Cheney has completed tours of duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (on five occasions); Fort Rucker, Alabama; Camp Indian, Korea; Fort Lewis, Washington; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Vilseck, Germany. Throughout his military career, CSM Cheney has served the White House Communications Agency where he was the NCOIC of the fabrications department and the Office of the Chief of Engineers at the Pentagon where he fulfilled the responsibilities as the Office of the Chief of Engineer Sergeant Major.

Additionally, CSM Cheney has been recognized for his service to the United States Army having held every Noncommissioned Officer leadership position culminating as the United States Army Garrison, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Garrison Command Sergeant Major.

Highly respected within the Army leadership, CSM Cheney has been awarded the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. CSM Cheney has also received the Drill Sergeant Badge, the Jungle Expert Badge, the Army Staff Badge, and the Presidential Service Badge. The aforementioned awards and decorations are just a few of the many that CSM Cheney has been given.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to Command Sergeant Major James H. Cheney. I know my colleagues join me in

thanking him for his service to his country and in wishing him well as he concludes his tour of duty with the United States Army.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SOUTH-
AMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise in honor of a proud and long-serving institution of my district—on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Southampton Fire Department's creation last Saturday, September 9th. I was honored to participate in this celebration, which included a parade of fire trucks and culminated with the anniversary gala at the Hampton Road Firehouse.

I am privileged to represent the Village of Southampton, New York. A common thread runs through the town's rich history—an all volunteer force that has served and responded bravely since the first firefighters in Southampton consisted of bucket brigades whose fire alarms were sounded by the village blacksmith banging on his rim.

The first company that constitutes today's fire department was the Agawam Engine Company. Founded in 1881, it was widely known for the 415-pound bell used to alert the firefighters and the handpumping hose cart they used to extinguished fires. Like many Long Island families who can proudly claim that generations served as the department, one of my ancestors, James H. Bishop, was a founding member of Agawam Company, and my great grandfather, Benjamin Bishop, later served as its chief between 1893 and 1897.

Since that time, more dangerous fires started by complex fuels and as a result of eastern Long Island's booming population have intensified the demands on the 143 current members of the Agawam Engine, Agawam Hose, Southampton Hook and Ladder, Southampton Fire Patrol, and Southampton Hose Companies. Still, they remain an all-volunteer and highly skilled force whose frequent feats of heroism and selfless dedication remind us of the firefighters who gave their lives at the World Trade Center as we observed the solemn occasion of the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking those firefighters who continue to protect our families and communities, and extend our deepest gratitude to volunteers, like those intrepid men and women of the Southampton Fire Department, who risk their lives each day to keep us safe.

HONORING GUNNERY SGT.
HAWLEY WALDRON

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor one of our Nation's true heroes, Gunnery Sgt. Hawley

Waldron. A decorated and distinguished serviceman, Gunnery Sergeant Hawley Waldron was an inspiration to the men he fought with in the First World War, though not even those closest to him truly understood the extent of his valor. He was a resident of Saratoga County, and I am honored to represent members of the Waldron family who take great pride in Hawley's accomplishments.

Hawley led a selfless life, never speaking of the numerous accolades he received during the war, leaving his family to discover these achievements only after his passing in 1961. Gunnery Sgt. Waldron received several awards and medals during his service including the silver star along with two gold stars signifying three separate awards for valor. He also received two Croix de Guerre decorations given by the government of France for his service. He was decorated following the battle of Belleau Wood, in which he helped the Allied forces turn back the German army advancing on Paris and in doing so paved the way for Germany's ultimate defeat.

America's armed service men and women are held in the highest regard in this Nation and Hawley Waldron was one of our greatest. It is with great joy and respect that I commend the late Gunnery Sgt. Waldron for his accomplishments and the many distinguished honors he received over his 2 years of service in World War I. Our country is truly safer and honored to have had someone of the character, caliber, and courage of Gunnery Sgt. Hawley Waldron. I would like to offer the deepest gratitude on behalf of myself, the United States House of Representatives and all Americans for his dedication to our country.

HONORING DR. OLEH SHAMSHUR,
UKRAINE'S AMBASSADOR TO
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
UKRAINE'S PROCLAMATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States and extend a warm welcome to him as he visits Cleveland, Ohio to celebrate the Fifteenth Anniversary of Ukraine's Proclamation of Independence with leaders and members of our Ukrainian-American community.

For nearly 80 years, the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland have served as a vital coalition of historical and cultural significance, aimed at preserving and promoting all aspects of Ukrainian culture. These guardians of history have succeeded in keeping alive the rich traditions of their beloved homeland—from Ukraine's religious and social customs, to the artistic, history and world contributions that have left an indelible mark across the globe.

Following the fall of the Soviet Union and the rebirth of Ukrainian statehood, the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland bolstered fundraising and outreach efforts that extended from the shores of Lake Erie to the sands of the Black Sea. Additionally, this organization was instrumental in the creation of the

Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Here in Cleveland, the Ukrainian Museum-Archives is a monument to the struggles and triumphs of the people of the Ukraine and reflects the passion and dedication of the members of our Ukrainian community who seek to keep the stories, spirit, and history of the Ukraine alive by preserving cultural artifacts, advancements, historical documents, books and photographs to pass along to every new generation.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and welcome of Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, along with the leaders and members, past and present, of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland. Their vigilant determination to raise awareness of their struggle for liberty serves as a monument to all who have traveled to America seeking freedom and opportunity and reflects the vibrant fabric of diversity of our Cleveland community and our entire nation.

CONVENT ATTACKED IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, while we were observing the anniversary of a horrible terrorist attack on America, 13 Catholic schools were closed in Lucknow, India, after the Convent of Loreto, the school there, and the chapel were attacked by the violent Hindu organization the Bharatiya Janata Yuva, a youth arm of the BJP, which is part of the RSS, a Fascist organization that published a book on how to get minorities, including Christians, falsely implicated in criminal cases.

The spokesman for the BJP demanded a high-level inquiry into the school, according to the Tribune newspaper of Chandigarh, saying it engaged in "irrational behavior." Apparently, being a Catholic is irrational behavior and "unscientific activity" in the world of Hindu militants.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is not an isolated incident. There has been a wave of attacks against Christians. According to an article that appeared in the Journal of the London Institute of South Asia, some Christian boys were shot while praying. A mob of Hindus burned a missionary, Graham Staines, and his two sons (ages 8 and 10) to death and they have gotten away with it. Another missionary, Joseph Cooper, was severely beaten and then expelled from India. Christians have been arrested for sharing their religious beliefs. Violent Hindu Fascists have raped nuns, murdered priests, burned churches, and committed other acts of violence against Christians. More than 300,000 Christians have been killed by the Indians in Nagaland alone.

This would be bad enough if it were just Christians, Mr. Speaker, but, sadly, it is not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities, such as Dalits, have been similarly repressed. The Muslims had their most revered mosque in India destroyed. Somewhere between 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were murdered in one pogrom in Gujarat. More than 90,000 have been killed in Kashmir. The government has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs. Their most

sacred place of worship, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, which has been called the Sikh equivalent of the Vatican, was attacked in June 1984. Hundreds of people were brutally murdered there, and more than 20,000 were killed in the month of June 1984. More than 52,000 Sikhs are political prisoners in India. They have murdered human-rights activists for exposing their secret cremations, murdered religious leaders, murdered toddlers, and paid out more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers who killed Sikhs.

I would like to thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh of the Council of Khalistan for bringing the Loreto attack to my attention.

Mr. Speaker, we are at war right now with Fascists using the cover of Islam. Many of us have criticisms of the war policies, but the recent anniversary of September 11 reminds us that we cannot let terrorists carry out their awful deeds with no consequences. So why do we refuse even to raise our voices against Fascists who use the cover of the Hindu religion and oppress and kill Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and others? At the very least, Mr. Speaker, we should be willing to stop trading with India and cut off our aid, and we should stand for the principles that America represents by seeking a democratic solution to the repression in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the status of Christian Nagaland, predominantly Sikh Khalistan, Kashmir, and the others who seek their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the Council of Khalistan's press release on the Loreto attack in the RECORD.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN LUCKNOW CLOSED AFTER ATTACK ON CONVENT BY MILITANT HINDUS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Thirteen Catholic schools were closed today to protest vandalism on the premises of the Loreto Convent, according to the Tribune of Chandigarh. Among the schools that were closed is the Loreto School. Militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto, Loreto Chapel, and the school there. A spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school, saying that it encourages "irrational behavior" and "unscientific activity." Mr. Dikshit said that the state government is "overreacting to breaking a few flower pots."

The attacks are part of a pattern of violence against Christians that has been going on heavily since Christmas 1998, which is in line with similar tyranny against other minorities. Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. Several states have enacted anti-conversion laws, which in practice prevent anyone from converting to any religion except Hinduism. Such a law is being considered by the Lok Sabha, the national Parliament. Christians report that they have faced threats, physical attacks, and jail time for sharing their beliefs. The Rashtriy Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the BJP, published a booklet on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. The people who have murdered priests, raped nuns, forced them to

drink their own urine, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. In 2002, the Associated Press reported an attack on a Catholic church on the outskirts of Bangalore in which several people were injured. The assailants threw stones at the church, then broke in, breaking furniture and smashing windows before attacking worshippers. Last year, two young Christian boys were shot at while they prayed. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

Sikhs and Muslims know the same repression that Christians have been experiencing lately. In June 1984, Indian forces invaded and desecrated the most sacred center and seat of the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, along with 37 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 were killed. Several young Sikh boys were taken into the courtyard of the Darbar Sahib complex and asked if they supported Khalistan (the independent Sikh homeland.) When they answered with the Sikh religious statement, "Bole So Nihal," they were summarily murdered. The Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, was shot full of bullet holes.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khaira was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khaira. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

The MASR report states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag.

The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The most important mosque in India, the Babri Mosque, was destroyed by militant Hindu fundamentalists who have never been held responsible for their actions.

"The attack on the Loreto Convent shows that minorities have no place in India's so-called democracy," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for an independent Khalistan. Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987. History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India

is not one country; It is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. "The only way that the repression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities will end is to liberate our homelands, such as Khalistan, Nagaland, Kashmir, and the rest, said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

IN MEMORY OF ESTHER
MARTINEZ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart today to honor the memory of a very special New Mexican, Esther Martinez.

Esther Martinez is renowned for her work as an educator, author, and master storyteller. But it is her life story that is very unique.

Born in 1912, her grandson Matthew notes that Esther typically introduced herself by saying she was born the same year New Mexico became a State and the *Titanic* sank. As a young girl, she traveled by covered wagon with her grandparents from her home in the Ute Country of Colorado to what was then known as San Juan Pueblo, now Okay Owingeh.

After arriving at Okay Owingeh, Esther was sent to the Santa Fe Indian Boarding School, as a part of the Federal Government's efforts to assimilate Native Americans into mainstream society. There she was scolded and often punished for speaking Tewa, her native tongue. As a lonely young girl, Esther longed to hear the voices and stories of her grandparents.

Story telling in her native Tewa language would be Esther's greatest legacy. She dedicated herself to maintaining and preserving the various forms of the Tewa language. Among her Pueblo people Esther or Aunt Esther, as many called her, is best known for her storytelling, but also recognized for her linguistic and educational contributions.

Esther taught Tewa at the San Juan Day School and for more than 20 years served as the school's director of bilingual education.

She also published her stories and used them as learning tools in the classroom. As a master of the Tewa language, she compiled Tewa dictionaries in various dialects for the northern New Mexico Pueblos and also translated the New Testament into Tewa.

Last Thursday, Esther was in Washington, DC, where I had the privilege of helping present her with the Nation's highest honor for folk and traditional artists. At the age of 94, Esther was named a 2006 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts. With members of her family in the audience, Esther rose to be honored and received a standing ovation for her life's work preserving her native Tewa language and traditions.

Tragically, while making her way back home from the airport Saturday evening, Esther was

killed in a traffic accident. Two of her daughters traveling with her suffered injuries but survived the crash.

Our hearts weigh heavy with the news of Esther's tragic passing but her legacy will forever live in the contributions she made to our Nation as an educator, linguist, and master storyteller. Her greatest role, however, was as a mother of 10 and grandmother who was loved by many. Our deepest sympathies are with them today.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO TOM
VELOZ

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor the memory of my friend, Thomas Michael Veloz. A caring and charitable man who was a monumental presence in Santa Clarita, CA, Tom passed away on September 13, 2006, at the age of 69.

Born in New York in 1937, Tom moved to California with his family in the 1950's. He attended the University of Southern California and graduated with a degree in business finance and education in 1960. After graduating, Tom worked in his father's business, Aquafine Corporation. Eventually assuming the role of president, Tom made the company an international success and then began another thriving business, Ultra Violet Devices, Inc. He was well regarded by his peers who held him in high esteem for his leadership, honesty and integrity. Extremely astute and innovative, Tom helped define many of his industry's current manufacturing standards.

Success in business afforded Tom the opportunity to be a generous philanthropist and he was honored several times for his efforts. Tom was a major benefactor to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, College of the Canyons and many other local nonprofit organizations, including local chapters of the United Way, American Cancer Society and the American Diabetes Association. But helping kids became his passion and he was a driving force behind the Santa Clarita Valley Boys and Girls Club. Tom was also very instrumental in opening the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital in memory of his second wife, Sheila, and he actively participated on the center's board.

With his contagious sense of fun and enthusiastic love of life, Tom had a genuine affection for others. He was a funny man with a constant smile and a twinkle in his eye, and he made many friends, some of whom became targets of his renowned practical jokes. Always the doting grandfather, Tom enjoyed semi-retirement because it gave him the opportunity to spend more time with his beloved grandchildren.

Although Tom will be remembered as a visionary community leader who generously helped others, his lasting legacy rests in his family. He is survived by his wife, Janet, sons, David and Peter, his first wife, Roberta, brothers, Robert, and his identical twin, Frank, as well as stepdaughters, Sheryl Regan and Janine Jones, and 10 grandchildren. His second wife, Sheila, preceded him in death.

Tom's life personifies Cicero's statement that the memory of a well-spent life never dies. Tom Veloz made a positive and profound difference in the Santa Clarita Valley. He will be remembered as a kind man with a giving heart; one who always strived to make his world a better place.

HBCU WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of the outstanding contributions that our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities have given us over the years.

There are four HBCU's in the state of Florida: Florida Memorial in Miami, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, my alma mater, and Edward College in my district in Jacksonville, and Bethune Cookman, a great institution in Daytona Beach, a school I work very closely with.

The importance and outstanding work HBCU's do around the country is most noteworthy. In addition to educating African American students nationwide, they provide resources for our communities, such as mentoring and tutoring programs for our youth.

Around the country, HBCU's enroll 14 percent of all African American students in higher education, even though they make up just 3 percent of our nation's 4,000 institutions of higher education. HBCU's have awarded masters degrees and first-professional degrees to about 1 in 6 African American men and women, and awarded 24 percent of all baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans nationwide.

I would also like to add that my Alma Mater, Florida A&M University, currently tops the list for black students and was recognized in this month's edition of Black Enterprise Magazine for being the #1 university in the country for black students. It is also the #1 producer of blacks earning bachelors degrees in the United States!

FAMU alone has produced many of society's leaders in various fields, including myself, ALCEE HASTINGS, KENDRICK MEEK, other Members of Congress past and present, the current mayor of Detroit, Kwame Kilpatrick, tennis great Althea Gibson, and football legend Bob Hayes. Most recently, FAMU has produced young leaders such as Mr. Andrew Gillum, the youngest City Councilman ever to be elected in Tallahassee, Florida, Miss Black Universe 2006, Ms. Kimberlee Borland, and an emerging leader on my staff, Mr. Joseph Bastian.

As you can see, Historically Black Colleges and Universities are a staple in our community and are vital to the success of the students striving to achieve the American dream. These colleges and universities are preparing a new generation of leaders, business people, teachers, entrepreneurs and scholars. I urge your continued support of these historic institutions as we recognize them and spotlight their achievements.

HONORING MR. RAY L. PERETTI
OF KENT, WASHINGTON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight and commend the service of Ray L. Peretti of the Ninth Congressional District of Washington, for his service to his community and the Nation as a member of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

Mr. Peretti recently completed his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, and has also served in many positions of responsibility in the association. Mr. Peretti has been a member of the board of directors of PIA National since 1995. He was also a member of the board of directors of PIA of Washington/Alaska, which is now part of the PIA Western Alliance, serving as vice president, president-elect and president and on various committees.

Mr. Peretti has served on the State of Washington Property and Casualty Advisory Committee. He was named Agent of the Year by PIA of Washington/Alaska in 1995, received the Hartford/Jonathan Trumbull Council's Chairman's Award. Mr. Peretti was also honored by the Insurance Fire Mark Society of the Pacific Northwest with its Presidential Award, and is the recipient of a public relations award from the Insurance Women of South King County.

Active in his community, Mr. Peretti is the owner of the Hub Insurance Agency of Renton, Washington. A lifelong member of the Renton Lions Club, he is also a member of the Renton Chamber of Commerce, serving 6 years as a member of its board of directors, and has been a member of the Renton Arts Commission and the Renton Ethics Board.

As a professional insurance agent, Mr. Peretti's dedication to the highest standards of his profession has earned him the respect of his friends, associates, business colleagues and of the insurance industry as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise today to recognize the good work that Ray L. Peretti has done throughout his career as a member of the insurance community, and to again congratulate him on the completion of his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

TRIBUTE TO M. KRISHNAN AND M.
MURALI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to formally congratulate M. Krishnan and M. Murali for earning the title of Best Businesspersons of the Year and for their receipt of the Fetna Award of Excellence for 2006. This recognition is the culmination of the contributions that these two brothers have made in the Indian and larger communities.

The two businessmen established Sri Krishna Sweets as the premier purveyor of fin-

est sweets in India. While maintaining uncompromising principles and ethical values, they have applied the highest standards of excellence in areas ranging from purchase to fresh delivery of products to creating a new generation of satisfied customers all of the time.

Outside of the business world, they have been well known in their local community for the initiation of community service projects in India, most notably among them being posting of life guards in Chennai beaches, restoration of water bodies, preservation and promotion of art and culture and addressing environmental issues. As an advocate for environmental consciousness and a big admirer of Indian art and culture, I applaud their commitment. Their corporate social responsibility is worthy of emulation by Indian and American companies.

Sri Krishna Sweets began as a single store in 1948 and it has become the leading retailer of specialty sweets in India with over 54 branches across the country. As Sri Krishna Sweets plans to expand its enterprise to the United States, the company will foster a stronger relationship and bring about a better understanding and cooperation between the U.S. and India.

I look forward to seeing Sri Krishna Sweets outlets opening in the US. Again, I commend Krishana and Murali for their notable efforts.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MOSHE AND
LOIS ROTHBLUM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Moshe and Lois Rothblum, a dynamic couple that has been involved in the Adat Ari El synagogue community for 35 years. Rabbi Rothblum is celebrating his retirement, and Lois Rothblum is receiving the Adat Ari El Humanitarian Award.

Rabbi Rothblum has long been a part of the Los Angeles community. He attended Fairfax High School and Los Angeles Hebrew High and graduated from UCLA. His parents instilled in him a love of music and musical theater, evident in his role as a counselor and music specialist at Camp Ramah. He went on to direct musical theater at Adat Ari El during his tenure as Rabbi, and his musical compositions for Shabbat and other occasions are still sung in synagogues all over the world. After his retirement, he will continue to stay involved in youth musical theater.

Moshe's love of music is only one of many amazing facets of his personality that he has showcased as Rabbi. He has been an eloquent advocate for Israel in the Jewish community and the larger southern California community. He is a quiet champion of social justice. He met with the late Cesar Chavez to discuss the plight of migrant farm workers. He broke precedent with the Conservative Jewish movement when, in 1985, he appointed Rabbi Leslie Alexander, the first woman to serve a large Conservative congregation. Rabbi Rothblum also met the late Pope John Paul II during his time as president of the Southern California Board of Rabbis. He is a renowned spiritual leader who has touched many lives.

Lois Rothblum is receiving the Adat Ari El Humanitarian Award. She attended New York

University and Columbia University Teachers College. Lois was a religious school teacher for 9 years, and her passion and dedication caused her to become a leading Jewish educator. She currently serves as director of teacher education at the Fingerhut School of Education, University of Judaism.

Rabbi Moshe and Lois Rothblum have made lasting impressions on the Adat Ari El community, as well as the larger Los Angeles community. I am proud to call them friends and proud to be a member of their congregation. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and honoring Moshe and Lois for all that they have achieved.

THANKING PUBLIC-SPIRITED EMPLOYEES AT GEOEYE IN COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the assistance of several public-spirited individuals working at GeoEye, the world's largest commercial satellite imagery company.

GeoEye, which acquired another company, Space Imagining, earlier this year, now operates a constellation of three Earth imaging satellites—Orb View-2, Orb View-3 and IKONOS—that contribute to an international network of more than a dozen regional ground stations, an image archive, and advanced geospatial imagery processing capabilities that are among the best in the world.

GeoEye has a strong presence in Colorado's 2nd Congressional District and recently demonstrated the value of their corporate presence in our state.

Last month, the Boulder County Sheriff and others responded to a report that a young Marine was missing after a fall in Eldorado Canyon State Park. This search effort involved hundreds of volunteers and a significant number of law enforcement officials, and of course the missing Marine's parents were deeply concerned about their son's disappearance, and conventional search methods were proving to be ineffective.

As the search was underway, my office was asked to contact GeoEye to see if they might be able to provide imaging data that could be used to find him.

Within moments of my request, GeoEye was offering up satellite imaging of the Eldorado Springs area and other forms of assistance to the Boulder County Sheriff's Department and to the Marine's family. No questions asked. No request for payment in return for services rendered; just a neighborly helping hand.

I want to express my deep public appreciation for the employees at GeoEye, who were quick to offer the company's assistance and who demonstrated a true sense of community spirit in a difficult situation.

While the law says "corporations" are also "persons," I think it is noteworthy when a company responds to a crisis in the way ordinary citizens do. After all, companies are organized—and properly so—for financial profit and economic benefit. We don't expect corporations, particularly large ones, to exhibit the

very human qualities that neighbors or friends do. And that is why I want to commend GeoEye and thank the company for their quick response and their offer to help.

I want to particularly thank Mr. Matt O'Connell, the CEO of GeoEye, Mr. Mark Brender, the Vice President for Comms/Marketing at GeoEye, and to Kim Goff, Kerri Rose and Val Webb. They generously gave of their time and expertise to help the community. Ms. Webb called my District Office to follow up on the case several times to offer additional assistance. That kind of personal effort certainly impressed me and my staff.

Please join me in commending these individuals and thanking them for their public-spiritedness. They remind us that with the right leadership, corporations are not necessarily abstract institutions lacking the qualities we look for in good friends and neighbors, but are, at their best, integral parts of the community at-large.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRENCH HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to French Hospital Medical Center and acknowledge their 60 years of providing quality healthcare to our community.

Founded by Edison French in 1946, this French Hospital Medical Center brought state of the art medicine to the San Luis Obispo community and continues to do so today. Dr. French, a surgeon, actively encouraged other specialists to settle in the San Luis Obispo area. In 1972, Dr. French moved the hospital to its current location on Johnson Avenue, where it serves residents throughout San Luis Obispo County. Currently, the hospital has working relationships with 320 physicians and employs more than 480 people.

On June 1, 2004, French Hospital was acquired by Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), and joined a network of over 40 medical centers and hospitals in three states. Founded in 1986, CHW is one of our Nation's largest not-for-profit healthcare systems and the largest Catholic healthcare system based in the Western United States. In 2005, French Hospital Medical Center provided more than \$5 million in care to the uninsured in our community and to other philanthropic endeavors. The hospital is committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate and affordable healthcare services, with special attention to the poor and underserved.

French Hospital Medical Center has set, and continues to set, a positive example with their passion for the practice of great medicine and their commitment to our local community. I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to represent this community and the many caring staff and administrators of French Hospital Medical Center and am pleased to celebrate their 60-year anniversary.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6061, SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act of 2006. This bill is not about border security or terrorism prevention, as the name implies, but is rather a gimmick and will not in fact solve our nation's border and immigration problems. We need to focus on "smart security" and develop a comprehensive plan. Only then will we truly secure our borders and ensure our safety as Americans. This bill strays far from those priorities and is opposed by almost every reasonable business, labor, and civil liberties advocacy group in the country.

The bill before us does not provide any specific dollar amounts to build the mandated fence, and nowhere does the bill even authorize additional Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or Customs officers needed to secure the border. Blindly erecting a fence, without taking into consideration the needs of the area and the men and women who work on the front lines of our borders is not effective and we can do better. We need to focus on "smart security," and we need to do it now.

It is extremely important to know who is entering our country and who is already here. We need to focus on strengthening our borders by improving our surveillance technology, deploying more border patrol agents, and providing them with the materials they need to effectively do their jobs. This is why I am proud to support Mr. Thompson's substitute amendment.

The substitute amendment requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive border security strategy by deploying at least 3,000 additional Border Patrol agents and 2,000 additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at our borders each year for the next four years. The substitute also provides helicopters, portable computers, radio communications and hand-held global positioning devices so the agents have all of the resources they need to get the job done.

Mr. Thompson's substitute also ends our ineffective "Catch and Release" practice. We need to ensure that we have adequate space in which to house people until we determine who they are and why they are here. It is unacceptable that illegal immigrants have been released after being charged with a crime simply because there is not adequate space in which to detain them. The substitute authorizes 100,000 additional detention bed spaces through FY 2010 to assist with the detention of undocumented individuals.

We also need to refocus our efforts on monitoring precisely which materials come through our borders. As the lead Democrat on the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack, I have called for the installation of radiation portal monitors at designated ports of entry to screen all inbound cargo for radiological or nuclear materials. I am dedicated to ensuring we have this important technology at every entry point.

Although erecting a security fence in specifically targeted areas may be necessary, it needs to be part of a much larger comprehensive plan. In order to employ a plan that is truly effective, we need to take into consideration all of these factors, not just a select few.

Rhetorical bills proposing a quick fix will not secure our borders, and I will not support legislation that does not propose a comprehensive solution. I am proud to support Mr. THOMPSON's substitute amendment, and I urge my colleagues to follow suit.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF GEORGE NASHAR FOR RECEIVING THE NORTH OLMSTED DEMOCRAT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of George M. Nashar, dedicated father and community leader, whose lifelong service has merited him this year's North Olmsted Democrat of the Year Award.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Nashar grew with a strong sense of responsibility and family values as the oldest of seven siblings. After graduating from Detroit Institute of Technology and Cuyahoga Community College, he proudly served in the U.S. Army for two years. During his service, Mr. Nashar bore witness to the Berlin Wall crisis, a harsh reality of the Cold War that left a lasting impression upon him, strengthening his democratic values and call to civic duty. Back in America, after his service, Mr. Nashar fell in love with his wife Donna and settled down in Ohio, where the two have been happily married for 41 years and blessed with three beautiful daughters, Nancy, Nicole, and Noelle, and nine lively grandchildren. A devoted husband and father, Mr. Nashar has supported his family throughout the years with his employment at General Motors. After retirement, Mr. Nashar stayed active working for Gerald Fuerst at the Clerk of Courts.

In addition to being a hard-working and warm-hearted family man, Mr. Nashar is an exemplary American citizen because of his enthusiastic involvement throughout his local community of North Olmsted. Actively committed to his children's education, Mr. Nashar served for several years on the St. Richard School Parent Club as President and as Chairman of fun and successful fundraisers, in addition to serving for 12 years on the Magnificat High School Board of Governors. A devoted Catholic, Mr. Nashar has been ushering for Sunday Mass at St. Richard Parish for over 20 years and has made many friends within the church community.

Mr. Nashar goes above and beyond his civic responsibility with engagement in the political process. As a member of the North Olmsted Democratic Club, serving as its President for two years and repeatedly sponsoring their annual picnic, he works to foster unity and political awareness. From 1990-2006, Mr. Nashar honorably served as Ward 3 Councilman for the City of North Olmsted, chairing several committees including Streets and Transportation and Safety. During these 16 years he was well-respected and repeatedly

re-elected by his constituents because of his steadfast and earnest dedication to their needs as not only a representative, but a friend.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of George M. Nashar, the 2006 North Olmsted Democrat of the Year, whose unwavering commitment to serving his family, community, and country has left a lasting impression, inspiring those around him.

IN TRIBUTE TO BETTE DEWING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bette Dewing, a great New Yorker. Bette Dewing is devoted to her community on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, and in recognition of her selfless dedication to the well-being of others and her significant achievements on behalf of the quality of life in New York City, she is being honored this month by the East 79th Street Neighborhood Association.

For decades, Bette Dewing has served on the front lines of the fight to preserve and enhance her fellow New Yorkers' quality of life. A longtime columnist at the premier local newspaper of Manhattan's East Side, *Our Town*, Bette Dewing has used her public platform expertly and effectively to become an unparalleled advocate for her fellow New York City residents on a wide range of issues. She has been perhaps the Big Apple's leading champion for enhancing pedestrian safety, focusing the attention of government officials on a host of urban ills, most notably the need to curb traffic lawlessness. No New Yorker has done more to combat illegal bicyclists, skateboarders and motorists, whose careless and often selfish behavior is a menace to city pedestrians, in particular to seniors and persons with physical disabilities. A founder of a community-based advocacy organization, *Pedestrian First*, Ms. Dewing is perhaps more responsible than any other for starting the drumbeat of protest against those who would encroach on the space and safety of her fellow New Yorkers, a call that has since been echoed by many elected officials and municipal government leaders.

Some of Bette Dewing's most important advocacy occurred when she presciently called for a renewed emphasis on the preeminence of family life, respect for the many contributions to our society by the elderly, and a return to civility. Her wise counsel to younger generations to maintain strong family ties is one that everyone should embrace. Similarly, her manifestoes urging a return to a culture in which a prevailing civic-mindedness—including courtesy and consideration for others—is the rule, not the exception, have since been taken to heart by many New Yorkers.

In being honored by the East 79th Street Neighborhood Association, Bette Dewing's achievements are being recognized by one of the most important civic associations in our Nation's greatest metropolis. Representing the residents of Manhattan's Upper East Side living on or around East 79th Street, the dedicated membership of East 79th Street Neigh-

borhood Association and its distinguished and estimable president, Betty Cooper Wallerstein, have made immeasurable contributions to improving the quality of life of their neighbors and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to the civic life of New York City made by Bette Dewing.

HONORING THE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF W.D. FARR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and life-time achievements of Mr. W.D. Farr.

Mr. Farr was recently inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners, which honors those who have embodied and perpetuated the heritage of the American West through their exemplary lives, careers, and achievements.

Mr. Farr, a man of many talents, excelled in ranching, government, and banking.

After inheriting the family agricultural business, Mr. Farr remained a cattle rancher for many years. During this time Mr. Farr worked to improve livestock and farming methods. His innovative ideas became a catalyst for improved irrigation on the eastern plains and influenced ranching methods throughout the United States.

Mr. Farr was also a statesman. While working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Farr advised three U.S. Presidents and traveled the world as an advocate for the U.S. agricultural industry. His dedication to the agricultural community earned him induction into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1995.

Another one of Mr. Farr's successful endeavors was in the banking industry. He directed banks in Greeley and Denver. He also co-founded and chaired the Affiliated Bankshares of Colorado.

Mr. Farr's life epitomizes the courageous and innovative spirit of Colorado and the greater American West.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Farr in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating W.D. Farr for his many accomplishments and his service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO E. MALCOLM FIELD,
M.D.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of E. Malcolm Field, M.D. who has served the people of Michigan and our Nation for over 45 years as a neurosurgeon, neuroscience visionary and medical leader. Dr. Field has dedicated his life to healing, personally seeing more than 250,000 patients and performing more than 50,000 neurosurgeries through his practice based in Saginaw, Michigan.

Dr. Field is the founder of Saginaw Valley Neurosurgery, P.C., and a Diplomat of the

American Board of Neurological Surgeons. He is a Fellow of both the American College of Neurological Surgeons and the International College of Surgeons. He is also the founder and Medical Director of FNI, the Field Neurosciences Institute. FNI's mission is "the prevention, early diagnosis, care, and cure of neurological diseases, disorders and injuries." Dr. Field's commitment to his patients is to provide compassionate care, technological superiority and a full continuum of neurological services. Under Dr. Field's leadership extensive prevention, research and educational programs are continued. The Field Neurosciences Institute operates in 10 different clinical neurospecialties and has established satellite clinics in 18 communities throughout lower northeastern Michigan.

On September 21, 2006, the Malcolm Field Theatre for the Performing Arts on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University will be dedicated. In addition Dr. Field will be giving the annual James E. O'Neill Jr. Memorial lecture titled "Quest for a Cure".

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. E. Malcolm Field for the honor Saginaw Valley State University is bestowing on him and for his life long service to the residents of Michigan and the people of our Nation.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING REFORM IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1000, to provide for earmark reform in the House of Representatives. This measure, I believe, will help bring much-needed transparency and accountability for funding projects in the House. It will do this by obliging Committees to list the names of House Members next to the projects that they request. Identifying project sponsors will allow the public to see how their representatives are choosing to spend their tax dollars.

I am pleased that this legislation will include ALL House Committees. That means this resolution will identify the sponsors of special tax breaks, and special programs as well as those who are asking for appropriations earmarks.

Despite the fact that I support this bill, I am disappointed in its limitations. In the first place, the bill only applies to House rules. It's not the law of the land. So if there are violations, there are no legal consequences. Second, the bill does nothing to limit or at least define Member earmarks. That means that Members will continue to use their seniority and committee assignments to get special deals for their districts. While I'm a strong supporter of bringing tax dollars back to the district, I firmly believe that federal programs and projects need to be awarded based on merit and need, and should be subject to scrutiny and rigorous review.

Having said all this, H. Res. 1000 is a step forward. I am hopeful that greater transparency for the earmarking will allow the public to become more knowledgeable about the

process. At the very least, this will let them know how their taxes are being sent. And at the most, it will create the oversight and accountability we need to lead to better allocation of our precious and limited resources.

CBO ESTIMATE ON H.R. 4844, THE
"FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY
ACT OF 2006"

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, please find attached the Congressional Budget Office's estimate for the legislation, H.R. 4844, the Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006, as reported by the Committee on House Administration.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2006.

Hon. VERNON J. EHLERS,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4844, the Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs), Sarah Puro (for the impact on state and local governments), and Paige Piper/Bach (for the impact on the private sector).

Sincerely,

DONALD B. MARRON,
Acting Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4844—Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006

Summary: H.R. 4844 would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require all voters in federal elections to display a valid and current photo identification card issued by a government agency. The requirement would begin with the November 2008 federal election. The legislation would require the photo identification cards to document U.S. citizenship by the 2010 federal election. The legislation would require states to provide photo identification cards to all eligible voters who cannot pay for them, and it would authorize appropriations for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to reimburse states for those costs. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4844 would cost about \$1 million in 2007 and \$77 million over the 2007–2011 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 4844 contains intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Beginning in 2008, the bill would:

Require state and local governments to establish a program that would make certain forms of photo identification available to those who currently do not have it;

Prohibit state and local governments from allowing individuals without proper photo identification to vote; and

Prohibit states from charging a fee for such identification if the applicant cannot afford the fee.

While the aggregate costs to state, local, and tribal governments of complying with these mandates is uncertain, CBO estimates that they would far exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$64 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation) in at least one of the first five years after the mandates go into effect. The bill would authorize funds to

cover the costs of reimbursing states for providing identification cards to those individuals that cannot afford them, which CBO estimates would total about \$70 million over the next few years.

By requiring individuals to have a government-issued identification to vote in a federal election, H.R. 4844 also would impose new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Based on information from government and other sources, CBO estimates that the cost to comply with those mandates would exceed the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$128 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation) in at least one of the first five years the mandates are in effect.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4844 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 800 (general government).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Photo Identification Card Reimbursement:					
Estimated Authorization					
Level	0	50	20	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	44	26	1	1
Election Assistance Commission:					
Estimated Authorization					
Level	1	2	2	*	*
Estimated Outlays	1	2	2	*	*
Total Changes:					
Estimated Authorization Level	1	52	22	1	1
Estimated Outlays ..	1	46	28	1	1

NOTE: * = less than \$500,000.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4844 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2007, that the necessary amounts will be provided for each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar programs.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4844 would cost \$1 million in 2007 and \$77 million over the 2007–2011 period to reimburse the states for the cost of providing photo identification cards to voters who cannot afford to pay the cost of obtaining a card, and the cost to the EAC to operate the reimbursement program.

Photo Identification Card Reimbursement

Starting in fiscal year 2008, section 3 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as are necessary for the EAC to make payments to states to cover the costs of providing government-issued photo identification cards to voters who state that they cannot afford to pay for the cards. The cost of implementing this provision would depend upon the number of voters who receive identification cards for free, and the cost of producing those cards.

The National Commission on Federal Election Reform estimated in 2001 that up to 10 percent of those eligible to vote do not have official state identification (typically, driver's licenses). The commission assumed that this population consisted of the poor (who may not have cars) and those living in dense urban areas (who may not need cars). Indiana, Georgia, and Missouri currently require voters to have photo identification. Those states estimate that around 7 percent of their registered voters do not have a state-issued driver's license or identification card.

Based on the estimates and experience of those states, CBO estimates that about 4 percent of the nation's registered voters—about 7 million individuals—do not have state identification cards and would likely request free identification cards to vote in federal elections. That estimate reflects the expectation that only those registered voters who

intend to vote might seek free identification cards.

States typically charge about \$10 to issue an identification card. CBO estimates the cost of providing photo identification for voters who cannot afford them would be about \$45 million in 2008 and \$72 million over the 2008–2011 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. That amount includes the cost of providing free ID cards to some newly registered voters over the 2010–2011 period.

Election Assistance Commission

Section 3 would require the EAC to reimburse the states for the cost of providing free photo identification cards, and to promulgate regulations for obtaining reimbursement. Based on information from the EAC, CBO estimates that additional staffing and administrative requirements necessary for those efforts would cost \$1 million in 2007 and \$5 million over the 2007–2011 period.

Estimated impact on state, local, and tribal governments: H.R. 4844 contains intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. Beginning in 2008, the bill would:

Require state and local governments to establish a program that would make certain forms of photo identification available to those who currently do not have it;

Prohibit state and local governments from allowing individuals without proper photo identification to vote; and

Prohibit states from charging a fee for such identification if the applicant cannot afford the fee.

While the aggregate costs to state, local and tribal governments of complying with these mandates is uncertain, CBO estimates that they would far exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$64 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation) in at least one of the first five years after the mandates go into effect. The bill would authorize funds to cover the costs of reimbursing states for providing identification cards to individuals that cannot afford them, which CBO estimates would total about \$70 million over the next few years.

Preemption of State Voting Laws

The bill would prohibit state and local governments from allowing individuals without proper photo identification to vote. This requirement would preempt state laws in the 47 states that do not currently require all voters to show photo identification when voting. The preemption, in and of itself, would not impose significant costs on those governments.

Establishing an Outreach Program

The bill would require states to "establish a program" to provide photo identification cards to meet the requirements of the bill. According to government sources, establishing such a program would require some or all of the following: purchasing certain new equipment, hiring additional staff for certain offices, training current employees, providing outreach activities to educate affected voters via pamphlets, television and radio advertisements, and posting information on state and local Web sites. Costs for each state would vary based on the demographics of the population the state without photo identification and the current voting structure in the state. For example, states that conduct voting by mail would not incur costs to train poll workers, while states that do not currently have a Department of Motor Vehicles office in each county would need to purchase equipment for county offices. CBO estimates that, in aggregate, these costs to establish outreach programs would total about \$75 million in 2008 and about \$50 million in 2010.

Providing Free Identification Cards

The bill also would require, starting in 2008, states to provide voter identification

cards for free to citizens who cannot afford to pay for one.

In the three states that currently require voters to show photo identification when voting, states provide such cards for free to those who cannot afford them. CBO expects that those states would comply with this mandate without incurring significant additional costs. The 47 states that do not currently require all voters to show photo identification when voting would be required to issue free cards to indigent citizens. While the costs vary by state, on average, states charge about \$10 for identification cards that are not driver's licenses. Based on information from the states that currently have photo identification requirements and on nationwide studies of those without photo identification, CBO expects that about 4 percent of the population likely would apply for and receive a free card as a result of this bill's requirements. CBO estimates that the costs to state, local, and tribal governments would total about \$70 million, with most costs occurring in calendar year 2008. The bill would authorize funds to cover these costs.

Issuing Identification Cards for Proof of Citizenship

The bill also would require states to issue, by 2010, identification cards for which applicants would be required to provide proof of citizenship. Under current law, states do not collect or place citizenship status of an applicant on their driver's license or other identification cards, although they will begin collecting such information in May 2008 under the requirements of the REAL ID Act. CBO expects that by 2010, roughly half of the voting-age population will have a driver's license that complies with the terms of the REAL ID Act, although such licenses would not necessarily comply with the requirements of this bill.

States could place the citizenship information they collect on these driver's licenses and would incur only small additional costs to comply with the requirements of this bill.

Of the remaining population (those people whose driver's licenses would not come up for renewal until after November 2010), CBO expects that about 20 percent could vote using a passport to prove citizenship. The remaining population—about 50 million people—would be required to either renew their driver's licenses early or to obtain voter identification cards as authorized by the bill. The costs of processing such a large number of applications by 2010 would be substantial. While the costs to states would vary, they would include providing new licenses or identification cards, establishing new databases, hiring and training new staff, and providing services to a large number of additional residents. CBO cannot estimate the total costs of this mandate, but they likely would far exceed the threshold established in UMRA.

State governments may choose to use revenues received from fees to cover the expenses associated with this mandate. Under UMRA, however, these revenues are considered a means of financing and as such are not counted against the mandate costs of H.R. 4844 for purposes of determining whether costs would exceed the UMRA threshold.

Estimated impact on the private sector: By requiring individuals to have a government-issued identification to vote in a federal election, H.R. 4844 would impose new private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA. Based on information from government and other sources, CBO estimates that the cost to comply with those mandates would exceed the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$128 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation) in at least one of the first five years the mandates are in effect.

Under the bill, the requirement for an individual to have a government-issued identification for federal elections would be implemented in two phases. In 2008, the bill would require individuals to provide "a government-issued, current, and valid photo identification" to the appropriate election official when voting in person. Individuals voting other than in person would be required to submit "a copy of a government-issued, current, and valid photo identification" along with their ballot. Certain voters in the uniformed services who are absent from the United States during the election would be exempt from this requirement. Individuals who wish to vote and who do not have an appropriate identification card would have to obtain one. Government identification cards such as a passport, a driver's license, or a state-issued photo identification would meet the requirement for voting in federal elections. On average, the state-issued photo identification would be the least expensive method to comply. For individuals who need to obtain identification, the cost of complying with the first phase of the mandate would be fees charged by states along with other expenses for individuals to obtain the photo identification. The bill would prohibit states from charging a fee to any individual who provides an attestation that they cannot afford the fee for a photo identification. In addition, the incremental costs for individuals voting other than in person would be the expense of making a copy of their identification.

Beginning with the regularly scheduled general election for federal offices held in November 2010 and each subsequent federal election, individuals who want to vote would have to get "a government-issued, current, and valid photo identification for which the individual was required to provide proof of United States citizenship as a condition for the issuance of the identification." Passports would meet that requirement. Individuals without passports may be able to use drivers' licenses that are issued and compliant with the REAL ID Act, depending on whether those licenses also meet the requirements of this bill. The REAL ID Act requires states to meet minimum standards for the documentation required by applicants for drivers' licenses and identification cards. Under current law, state-issued drivers' licenses are supposed to be compliant with the REAL ID Act by May 2008. Individuals who have obtained driver's licenses between now and when their state becomes compliant with the REAL ID Act would have to renew their licenses early or obtain another state-issued identification in order to vote in 2010. Based on information from government and other sources regarding the percentage of individuals that renew licenses each year, the percentage of individuals with passports; and the number of individuals that vote in federal elections, CBO estimates that the cost to comply with this mandate would exceed UMRA's annual threshold.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Matthew Pickford; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Sarah Puro; Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REGINALD B. KNIGHT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Reginald "Reggie" Knight for his outstanding service to his community.

Reggie graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit in 1954. Soon after, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam as a Recon Platoon Sergeant. He became senior enlisted Staff Assistant to the Commanding Officer of Fighter Attack Squadron 323 at the Marine Corps Air Station in El Toro, CA before he retired in 1974 as a Sergeant Major.

After Reggie retired from the Marines, he began working for the Veterans Administration (VA), serving as the representative at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, CA, where he earned his associates degree in 1977. While earning his bachelor's degree at the University of Redlands in California, Reggie gained access to the VA's regional office in Denver as well as becoming health systems specialist at the VA Hospital in Loma Linda, CA. In 1986, he transferred to the Department of Army, eventually earning the position of senior employment development specialist for the U.S. Army Tank Auto/Command in Warren, MI. When he retired in 1994, he settled in Pahrump, NV, becoming a member of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE).

Within 5 years of his membership, Reggie helped triple the size of NARFE's Chapter 2276 by initiating a recruiting program, leading members in a highway cleanup, getting NAFRE signs raised on local highways, joining the local Chamber of Commerce, and launching a public relations campaign in order to allow easily-accessible information about the chapter in the local media. Throughout his membership, Reggie has served as chapter vice president (a position he currently holds), legislative officer, chairman of the public relations and membership committees, and, in 2000, he was elected the 10th president of the Nevada NARFE Federation. Recently, he chaired the host committee for two Nevada Federation conventions.

Reggie has also involved himself in a number of efforts to enrich the lives of the Pahrump community. He has worked with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service to offer programs such as 4-H, which help youths develop leadership, citizenship, and life skills. He also assisted in the establishment of the Big Brother/Big Sister program in his town. In 2001, Reggie was appointed Chair of a committee to lobby the State legislature to construct a high-tech center in Pahrump; that same year he was honored with the Golden Heart Community Service Award from the United Way. He is also active in the Marine Corps League and Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Reginald B. Knight for his admirable efforts to improve the community of Pahrump, Nevada, and for his long record of public service as a Federal employee and retiree. I applaud his efforts and wish him luck in all his future endeavors,

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT TO ENSURE CURRENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that will help to protect the health care provided to Native Americans by the Indian Health Service.

Providing quality health care is one of the most important Federal responsibilities in Indian country. Through a network of service units scattered across the country and across South Dakota, the Indian Health Service is the primary, and often the only, access point to that care.

For this reason, any service reduction at any service unit should be preceded by a thorough and thoughtful analysis of the impacts of the reduction proposal, an evaluation of alternative options, and meaningful tribal consultation at every step. Current law recognizes this and already requires that IHS conduct an impact study before implementing a reduction.

Unfortunately, the law contains a critical oversight and specifies only that the study occur at least 1 year before any service reduction. It contains nothing to prevent an outdated study from being inappropriately used to justify a service reduction. This legislation would correct that mistake—mandating that the study occur 1 year, but not more than 2 years, before the actual service reduction. This will ensure that any analysis will reflect current conditions, not ones that no longer exist.

This is a small and reasonable change that is both consistent with the intent of existing statute and, I think, an important improvement. Though introduced as a stand alone measure today, I am hopeful that my amendment can later be added to Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments moving through this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO META JACKSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Meta Jackson for continuously serving the Juniata Township Election Board for the past 50 years. Meta will be honored at a ceremony on November 7 for her service to the community.

Meta started as an election inspector in 1956 during the Dwight Eisenhower-Adlai Stevenson Presidential race. At the time the paper election ballots were counted by hand and the counting often extended into the next day. She has told her current fellow poll workers that in the 1950s they would be up 24 hours straight working to get every ballot counted. Meta has served as the chair of the Election Board for several decades and has witnessed many changes over the years. Today the township uses opti-scan machines and automark loading terminals for the disabled that count the ballots as they run through the system.

In addition to serving as an election official for the past 50 years, Meta is active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, Ladies of the Moose, and the Caro Eagles. She has lived in Juniata Township since the age of 5 and graduated from Caro High School. She married the late Walter Jackson in 1953 and moved to the family dairy farm. Meta and Walter have four children and nine grandchildren. Meta continues to help out on the family farm by doing the recordkeeping and running errands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Meta Jackson for 50 years as an election official and wish her the best as she continues her service to the community.

THE DISABLED WARRIORS' FAMILY EDUCATION ACT OF 2006

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 6096 the Disabled Warriors' Family Education Act of 2006. I am especially pleased that the Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee Honorable LANE EVANS, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN and Honorable STEPHANIE HERSETH join me as original cosponsors.

The Disabled Warriors' Family Education Act of 2006 would allow spouses and dependent children to access their Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance under chapter 35 of title 38, U.S.C. prior to the severely injured servicemember being discharged from active duty.

Many of our disabled warriors have spouses who find themselves faced with being the breadwinner of the family. It is important that these individuals have access to their education benefits to improve their ability to compete in the job market. Therefore, once the servicemember receives a VA rating stating that their injuries are permanent and total in nature, the servicemember's spouse, and college-aged dependent children may begin their education during the servicemember's convalescence period, which in some instances may be 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation that will help families of our servicemembers who have sacrificed so much for the safety of our nation in the Global War on Terrorism, and I urge my colleagues to support the Disabled Warriors' Family Education Act of 2006.

DENTON RECEIVES SECOND STORMREADY RECOGNITION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Denton, TX, for receiving its second StormReady recognition. I commend Mayor Perry McNeill and the City of

Denton's Office of Emergency Management for their commitment to supporting broader region and State efforts, both in planning and response, to the weather-related challenges we have faced in 2006.

The National Weather Service issues StormReady recognition to cities, such as Denton, that establish a level of preparedness beyond the minimum standards of severe weather operations. These leading cities are selected based on their readiness in six areas, including the receipt of National Weather Service information, local weather and water monitoring, local warning distribution, communication of information to the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, community preparedness, and administrative tools. The City of Denton met or exceeded each of these areas.

Under the capable direction of Denton's Emergency Manager Michael Penaluna, Mayor McNeill and the City of Denton have demonstrated their commitment to protecting and preparing citizens for severe weather emergencies. Thanks to the hard work of these individuals, the City of Denton is a safer place and a model for communities around the nation.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the City of Denton, Mayor Perry McNeill and the Office of Emergency Management on receiving their second StormReady emergency response recognition.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH PATRICK LEE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mourn the passing of, Dr. Joseph Patrick Lee, the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida.

Dr. Lee was an institution at Barry University, known throughout the Barry family and to generations of students. He was an extraordinary scholar and an excellent administrator. He served quietly, competently, and well, helping to develop and expand Barry College into the major University it is today. His passing is a huge loss.

Dr. Lee was also an integral part of the South Florida community for over 25 years. He served on the boards of directors of numerous community groups, including president of the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Miami Shores. Dr. Lee's many honors included: the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship; Danforth Foundation National Fellowship; Fulbright Fellowship, Université de Paris; and National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship. He was elected Commissioner of Florida's Southern Association of Colleges and Schools from 2000-05, and served on its executive council in 2004.

Born November 30, 1942, in Leitchfield, Kentucky, Dr. Lee came to Barry University from Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina, where he held the positions of vice president for academic affairs; academic dean; and associate professor of French. His love of language led him to earn his doctor of

philosophy from Fordham University in New York, with a major in French, minor in Spanish. He earned his bachelor's degree from Brescia College in Owensboro, Kentucky, majoring in French with minors in English, Spanish and history.

Considered a preeminent scholar of Voltaire and an internationally respected scholar and lecturer, Dr. Lee co-authored "Livres dangereux: Le Dictionnaire philosophique de Voltaire" in 1994, and published book reviews in 10 journals.

Dr. Lee became Barry University's vice president for academic affairs in 1981. As its chief academic officer, Dr. Lee was an integral part of Barry University growing from a small college of just under 2,000 students to today's institution of more than 9,200. Barry University, Florida's fourth-largest private institution of higher education, provides bachelor's, master's, law, and seven doctoral degree programs across the state. Founded in 1940, the university is sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan. Barry University, named one of the most diverse institutions of higher education in the South by US News and World Magazine for the last seven years, possesses a diverse student population from more than 70 countries characterizing Barry's global community.

Dr. Lee's life mirrored the diversity found at Barry University. His research and travels took him to France, England, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany, and his reputation led him to more than 30 locations throughout the United States and the world as a speaker and guest lecturer. Further, he was a member of more than 15 professional organizations, including the American Association of Teachers of French, American Association of University Administrators, American Comparative Literature Association, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Modern Language Association, North American Association for the Study of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Dr. Lee also was appointed to the editorial board of the "Complete Works of Voltaire," and was national secretary-treasurer for Delta Epsilon Sigma.

Dr. Joseph Lee's achievements were great, as was his commitment to Barry University's community and the broader community of South Florida. I offer my sincere condolences to his family and all who were touched by his greatness.

TRIBUTE TO OTTAWA TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Ottawa Township High School (OTHS) in Ottawa, Illinois for its remarkable accomplishment of winning the Illinois State Music Championship for the tenth consecutive year.

Much of the credit for this amazing achievement must be attributed to the strong leadership of Mr. Roger Am, Vocal Music Director, and Ms. Sarah Reckmyer, Director of Bands. Clearly, their hard work and commitment to

the program over the years have developed an environment of high expectations.

Further credit for the OTHS success is due to the support of the school administration; the work of the music staff at the elementary schools which feed into Ottawa Township High School and the OTHS students themselves who have refused to accept any outcome short of victory in the state music competition.

It is quite refreshing to see a public high school with such a strong commitment to the fine arts. In addition to its obviously outstanding music program, Ottawa Township High School also possesses and displays a truly remarkable multi-million dollar collection of artwork—a fine arts attribute which surely few public high schools in the nation can match.

In closing, let me state just how proud and pleased I am to have this chance to provide my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives with this shining example of a public educational institution which believes so strongly in offering its students this type of fine arts opportunity. I encourage my colleagues to share this example with the high schools in their own congressional districts in hopes of spurring interest in the fine arts in our young citizens across our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 14, 2006, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 448—"no." On Ordering the Previous Question providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 1000) providing for earmarking reform in the House of Representatives (H. Res. 1003).

Rollcall No. 449—"yes." On Agreeing to the Resolution providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 1000) providing for earmarking reform in the House of Representatives (H. Res. 1003).

Rollcall No. 450—"yes." On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building (H.R. 6033).

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. JOHN LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, no discussion of our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities would be complete without mention of the Atlanta University Center Consortium. I have the privilege of representing, in my Congressional District, this remarkable consortium of institutions of higher learning which comprises: Clark Atlanta Uni-

versity; Spelman College; Morehouse College; Morehouse School of Medicine; the Interdenominational Theological Institute. I also am fortunate to represent Morris Brown College, Georgia's first college founded by African-Americans for African-Americans, in my Congressional District.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the rich history and the integral role that these institutions have played in educating African-American scholars for over a century.

Atlanta University Center—As the largest concentration of historically Black colleges and universities in the Nation, the Atlanta University Center has played a pivotal role in providing African Americans access to higher education for over 150 years. The history of the Atlanta University Center Consortium truly demonstrates the forward thinking of those who came before us.

During the 1930s, the modern organization of the Atlanta University Center emerged, with Atlanta University, Clark College, Morris Brown College, and the Interdenominational Theological Center affiliating a few years later. In 1957, the controlling Boards of six HBCU institutions (Atlanta University; Clark, Morehouse, Morris Brown and Spelman Colleges; and Gammon Theological Seminary) ratified new Articles of Affiliation, creating the present-day Atlanta University Center. In 1964, the Atlanta University Center, Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to provide services and programs to its member institutions. Today, Atlanta University Center Consortium member institutions continue to share a unique bond and a common goal of providing quality education for African Americans.

I want to commend the outstanding work of the Atlanta University Center, Consortium Executive Director, Dr. Marilyn T. Jackson, and the staff, faculty of the Atlanta University Center.

Clark Atlanta University—Formed by the consolidation of Atlanta University, which offered only graduate degrees, and Clark College, a 4-year undergraduate institution oriented to the liberal arts, Clark Atlanta University was formed in 1988. While Clark Atlanta University continues to maintain its historic relationship with the United Methodist Church, it should be noted that the legacy of both Clark College and Atlanta University extend back to the mid 19th century.

Clark College was founded in 1869 as Clark University by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which later became the United Methodist Church. Atlanta University was established by the American Missionary Association, with later assistance from the Freedman's Bureau in 1865.

Prior to its consolidation, Atlanta University was the Nation's oldest graduate institution serving a predominantly African-American student body. By the late 1870s, Atlanta University was renowned for supplying black teachers and librarians to the public schools of the South. By 1930, Atlanta University was offering graduate coursework in liberal arts, social and natural sciences; it would later go on to adopt professional programs in social work, library science, and business administration.

Clark Atlanta University continues to emphasize sound ethical and moral principles that promote personal integrity and understanding of others. Additionally, Clark Atlanta University accepts the mandate of its parent institutions:

Atlanta University's motto, "I'll Find a Way or Make One," and Clark College's motto, "Culture for Service."

I want to commend the outstanding work of Clark Atlanta University's current President, Dr. Walter Broadnax, and the staff, faculty, students, and alumni.

Interdenominational Theological Center—The Interdenominational Theological Center was chartered in 1958 through the mutual efforts of four denominations, representing four seminaries: Morehouse School of Religion, Gammon Theological Seminary, Turner Theological Seminary, and the Phillips School of Theology. The Interdenominational Theological Center would later add the Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary; the Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Today, over 15 different denominations are represented throughout the center, including Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), United Church of Christ, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Lutheran, Episcopal, and Roman Catholic, as well as students who are nondenominational.

The ITC has an international reputation for producing exceptional clergy and a long-standing tradition of community outreach, and it is known for its commitment to promoting service to both the church and society. In fact, the International Theological Center is currently playing an important role in fostering a national dialogue surrounding the Black church's role in the renewal of American society.

I want to commend the outstanding work of the Interdenominational Theological Center's current President, Dr. Michael A. Battle, and the staff, faculty, students, and alumni of the Interdenominational Theological Center.

Morehouse College—Founded in 1867 as the Augusta Institute in Augusta, Georgia, Morehouse College is the Nation's largest liberal arts college for men. In addition to ensuring that its students are prepared both academically and socially, Morehouse also takes great pains to ensure that its students are spiritually prepared for leadership and success in the larger society; as a result of this unique focus, Morehouse has the distinction of conferring bachelor's degrees on more black men than any other college or university in the United States.

I am pleased to note that Morehouse's notable alumni include some very distinguished Members of this Congress: my colleague from Georgia, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP and my good friend from New York, MAJOR OWENS. It also should be noted that Morehouse counts former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, and former Health and Human Services Secretary Leon Sullivan, among its prominent alumni.

I want to commend the outstanding work of Morehouse College's current President, Dr. Walter Massey, in addition to its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Morehouse School of Medicine—Morehouse School of Medicine was established in 1975, as part of Morehouse College, to address both a severe shortage of minority doctors, and a shortage of doctors in rural areas and inner cities. In 1983, Morehouse School of Medicine joined the consortium of institutions known as Atlanta University Center and was granted full accreditation of its M.D. degree program in April 1985.

Recognized for taking the lead in educating primary care physicians, 68 percent of More-

house School of Medicine alumni are practicing in primary care disciplines, while 84 percent are practicing medicine in underserved areas. Furthermore, Morehouse School of Medicine's research focuses on areas that disproportionately affect the African-American and other minorities. Its institutes include, but are not limited to: the National Center for Primary Care, the Cardiovascular Research Institute, the Neuroscience Institute, and the NASA Space Medicine and Life Sciences Research Center.

I want to commend the outstanding work of Morehouse School of Medicine's current President, Dr. John Maupin, in addition to its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Spelman College—Founded in 1881 for the purposes of educating African-American women and girls, Spelman College has empowered women to fully use their talents to succeed and to better the world, for many generations. As one of two black women's colleges in the Nation, Spelman develops its students not only academically but also emotionally and spiritually.

Spelman students are encouraged to pursue the study of fields where minorities and women are often underrepresented, such as math, science, and engineering. To this end, Spelman has forged partnerships with NASA and has been designated as one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and NASA as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and math education.

I want to commend the outstanding work of Spelman's current President, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, in addition to its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Morris Brown College—Morris Brown College is a private, liberal arts, 4-year institution founded in 1881 by members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Today, thousands of leaders in government, education, business, technical fields and the professions are proud to have Morris Brown College as their alma mater.

While the Atlanta community was deeply troubled by the April 2003 decision of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to rescind the accreditation of Morris Brown College, we remain hopeful that the institution will soon be restored to its full academic standing. I stand in solidarity with Morris Brown College, as it moves forward through this challenging transition, and I am confident that the institution will return stronger than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for the goals and ideals of Historically Black Colleges and Universities week, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING REFORM IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this sham legislation and call on this Congress to pass serious reform legisla-

tion to clean up the corruption in the People's House.

The culture of corruption under the current Republican Majority is a stain on the honor of everyone who serves this institution. The former Republican Majority Leader has been indicted, one former Republican Member of the Appropriations Committee is serving a lengthy Federal prison term, and just this morning we learned that a former powerful Republican Committee Chairman has agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges. And throughout the current 109th Congress, the Republican Leadership has shut down the Ethics Committee that has responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the U.S. House.

I support full disclosure of all Member-directed appropriations to shine a light on the process and ensure any special interest provisions can pass muster of public scrutiny. It is well past time for Congress to pass serious lobbying reform to clean up this institution.

Unfortunately, House Resolution 1000, the so-called Earmark Reform Act is a fraud. It would do nothing to expose the Alaskan "Bridge to Nowhere" because it does not apply to authorization bills. And on appropriations bills, this proposal sets up a huge loophole because it does not apply to what is known as the Manager's Amendment. This omission simply sets up a new conduit for the Republicans' earmark excesses.

Mr. Speaker, I regret the Republican party bosses refuse to bring legislation to clean up the corruption in Congress, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this scam legislation.

S. 418: MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 418, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This act helps to ensure that our military personnel are not vulnerable to immoral and dishonest insurance schemes.

I think the provisions of this bipartisan bill are crucial for the protection of our Armed Forces and their families. While most of America's focus on the military concerns our actions abroad, protecting personnel and their families at home can sometimes be overlooked. But for years now, men and women in the armed services have fallen victim to unscrupulous salespersons pushing high cost and unnecessary financial products and life insurance. This practice must be stopped.

As numerous investigations, studies, and congressional hearings have shown, bad actors within the insurance and financial products industry have been taking advantage of military personnel in order to turn a quick profit. The military personnel they target are often young, inexperienced in financial matters, and particularly vulnerable to the aggressive sales tactics used by some companies. To make matters worse, Department of Defense Directives and state regulations would be violated or completely ignored by these salespersons, without repercussion.

In some cases, servicemen and women were sold life insurance policies with low benefits and premiums as high as fourteen times the amount available to every enlisted person under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program. In other cases, they were sold investments that have all but disappeared from the civilian markets because they can rob investors of years of earnings. But some salespersons found a niche outside of the public mainstream to sell these disreputable investments on our military bases.

It should be noted that there are many up-standing financial and insurance companies that sell very worthwhile investment and insurance products to military personnel and their families. They should be applauded for the fine job that they do in helping our military members and their families. This bill is targeted at the few who abuse the system and prey upon our military.

This bill, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, will stop these practices by targeting the bad actors, adding much-needed transparency and communication between federal and state agencies. This bill clarifies confusing jurisdictional issues between DoD and state regulators, allowing regulators to better enforce state and federal law on military bases. It would create a registry to track investment advisors, brokers, dealers, and insurance salespersons, and let bases know when a suspicious salesperson has walked through their gates. Finally, the bill would ban the worst types of financial products being sold to our military. These products have disappeared from the civilian market, and they should disappear from our military installations too.

This bill has gained bipartisan support in Congress. I urge you to support this legislation and protect the financial future of our military personnel and their families. During a time when so many of our armed forces are bravely fighting tyranny abroad, we must ensure that they are protected at home.

IN HONOR OF POCAHONTAS'
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Pocahontas in Randolph County, Arkansas, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for the community and for all who helped shape the city's history.

Pocahontas has a long history dating back to the 1700's when the region was occupied by the French and a number of Indian tribes, including the Osage and Cherokee. The city's first settler, Ransom S. Bettis, arrived from Greenville, Missouri, in the early 1800's and is credited with helping establish Pocahontas as the county seat.

Pocahontas began as a significant river port and the first supply stop in Arkansas for travelers coming down Old Southwest Road. Several famous frontiersmen, including Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, General Ulysses S. Grant and others, made stops in Pocahontas during this time. Even today, the city continues to serve as a strategic educational

and agricultural center for Randolph County and the state.

The city constructed its first courthouse in 1837, a 40 feet by 40 feet two story structure. After the courthouse collapsed in 1870, Pocahontas residents replaced the structure in 1875 with the historic courthouse that remains today. The courthouse is a central landmark in Pocahontas' historic downtown business square with most of the commercial outlets renovated to compliment the building.

Pocahontas served as a major recruiting, training, and supply center during the Civil War. The city housed as many as 10,000 men after Arkansas withdrew from the Union on May 6, 1861. These men helped the state prepare for combat and secure the northern border from invasion. Federal troops even burned a section of the city, including the Pocahontas newspaper office, during the conflict.

The late nineteenth century through the mid-1920s marked a golden age for Pocahontas. The city had seven hotels and forty-three steamboats that navigated the Black River and turned Pocahontas into an important port of commerce. During this time, Pocahontas landed the Hoxie, Pocahontas, and Northern Railroad in 1896, completed the Hawk Railroad Company's connection of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Pocahontas in 1902, and watched the San Francisco Railroad construct a new railroad bridge across the Black River in 1911. Other early industries included four button factories, a brick company, Hanauer's cotton gin, the Grafton Stave and Heading Company, and the Pocahontas Bending Works, which made wooden parts for wagon wheels around 1901.

Development slowed during the 1920s and 1930s until several industries began to locate in the area. In 1942, Pocahontas landed a factory that made powdered eggs for the army and employed about 500 residents. Brown Shoe Company came to the area just a few years later, becoming the largest employer in Pocahontas. Other factories came in the 1960s including McGee, Aircraft Engineer, Cinch, and Pro Group, followed by Amerace ESNA in the 1970s.

Pocahontas continues to benefit today from its central location between the hills of the Ozarks to the west and the rich farmland of the Delta to the east. Tourists and residents flock to the region's five rivers year-round for all types of recreational activities including fishing and canoeing. The city is also home to the Black River Technical College which contributes significantly to the region's educated workforce.

This month, friends and residents of Pocahontas will kick-off a three week long celebration honoring the city's 150 years of history. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pocahontas, Arkansas, on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the city's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community, and wish Pocahontas many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

TRIBUTE TO HAL POTE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take his opportunity to recognize

and congratulate Hal Pote on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Hal, a friend of mine, diligently serves as the President of the Spina Bifida Foundation, SBF. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I have had the privilege of working along side Hal and truly appreciate his commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for individuals living with Spina Bifida.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida—our nation's most commonly permanently disabling birth defect—occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. Spina Bifida occurs in approximately 7 out of 10,000 live births and currently there are 70,000 men, women, adolescents, and children living with Spina Bifida in the United States.

In addition to Hal's strong professional commitment to improving the lives of those living with Spina Bifida, Hal has a binding personal tie that unites his heart with his expertise. Hal's nephew, Gregory was born with Spina Bifida almost 20 years ago.

Supporting his nephew through more than 20 surgeries, Hal counts it a privilege to share in Gregory's many wonderful moments like in 2004 when Gregory carried the Olympic torch. Hal is dedicated to ensuring that Gregory and all other individuals living with Spina Bifida enjoy a high quality of life. Through Hal's vision and dedication to helping Gregory and the tens of thousands of people like him, he joined with a group of colleagues to form the Spina Bifida Foundation in 1999.

In its 7 years of existence, the Foundation has achieved many amazing things for the Spina Bifida community. Just a few years ago, people born with Spina Bifida did not live past their teenage years and yet today, thanks to the advances in medical research and the dedication of public advocates like Hal Pote, many children with Spina Bifida are living to be adults. With more and more people with Spina Bifida living into adulthood, Hal and the Spina Bifida Foundation are committed to addressing the new challenges these adults now face.

One of the specific projects in which Hal has been instrumental is urging Gruma—one of the world's largest producers of corn flour and tortillas—to begin research and product testing on enriching its corn products with folic acid, a known preventative of Spina Bifida. At the urging of the Foundation and with the full and strong support of the Spina Bifida Caucus, Gruma now has a year-end goal of enriching all its corn products sold within the United States.

This is an outstanding and notable achievement. In fact, studies show that if all women in the United States consumed the recommended amount of folic acid every day before and during early pregnancy, up to 70 percent of neural tube birth defects could be prevented. Members of the Hispanic/Latino Community are at a higher risk of Spina Bifida affected pregnancies than any other ethnic group and this important and commendable action by Gruma has significant implications for improving the health and well-being of the US Hispanic/Latino population.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Hal for his outstanding leadership of the Spina Bifida Foundation and his steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life not just for his nephew Gregory but for all individuals living with Spina Bifida. I wish him the

best on the occasion of his 60th birthday and am confident that he will continue to enjoy many successes in all of his charitable and professional endeavors.

H.R. 5450, NOAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to reauthorize NOAA and call on the agency to work to develop an inland warning system. Six years ago I held a Hurricane Summit in the Second District of North Carolina. This was in response to the devastation that was brought to my State by Hurricane Floyd. Hurricane Floyd was one of the most devastating storms to hit the United States in more than 25 years. When Hurricane Floyd roared ashore in North Carolina in September of 1999, the storm took at least 56 lives, and left damages upwards of \$6 billion from the Carolinas to New England.

Although the National Weather Service uses the Saffir-Simpson Scale to classify hurricane strength according to wind speed, Hurricane Floyd showed us that much more damage, death, and destruction can be created by unexpected inland flooding. One year ago this fact was displayed again with disastrous intensity during Hurricane Katrina when the damage was not just limited to the immediate coastal areas of the gulf coast. After the storms there were inland areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama that were inaccessible for weeks following the severe flooding.

The purpose of my Hurricane Summit was to bring together meteorological experts from universities, the National Hurricane Center, and the National Weather Service to develop a more accurate index for inland flood monitoring. With the information gathered at this summit, I drafted legislation to ensure that NOAA and the National Weather Service make significant improvements to their inland flood warning system. H.R. 2486, the Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act of 2002, was passed in the 107th Congress and enjoyed wide bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation directed NOAA and the National Weather Service to improve the capability to forecast inland flooding associated with tropical storms and hurricanes, to develop a distinctive inland flood warning index for emergency management officials, and to train emergency management officials, National Weather Service personnel, and meteorologists to use these improved forecasting techniques for inland flooding.

An important part of this legislation requires the National Weather Service and NOAA to report annually to Congress on the progress of this new flood index. I would like to continue to work with the members of the Science Committee and the Appropriations Committee to ensure that NOAA provides these reports to the Congress in a timely manner.

Congress must provide the proper oversight to NOAA to ensure that the progress in developing an improved inland flooding index can be put in place to save lives.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD BEHNE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Major Edward Lee Behne, a decorated military veteran, entrepreneur, husband, and father who passed away on September 8. Major Behne served his country by flying UH-1 Hueys in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970. Major Behne is the Vietnam War's second-most decorated army pilot, having received two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Legion of Merit, a VN Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and Palm, two Silver Stars, six Bronze Stars, VN Service Medal (9 campaigns), two Meritorious Unit Citations, and 80 Air Medals.

In 1979, Edward Behne retired from the army to return to his home in Texas, in 1988, he founded Tex-Air Helicopters, Inc. Guided by his vision of a company that would provide customers an unprecedented level of quality, service, and performance in helicopter operations, Major Behne worked for over 20 years to build Tex-Air into one of the major providers of helicopter services in the Gulf Coast region. By 2000, the Tex-Air fleet had grown to thirty aircraft and was the most modern and sophisticated helicopter fleet in the United States. Operations ranged from Florida to Mexico with twelve helicopter bases, fifteen offshore refueling platforms, and two major maintenance facilities. Tex-Air established an extensive offshore radio network for operational control and flight following across the entire Gulf of Mexico using repeaters and a central communications base. In 2003, Major Behne retired from Tex-Air to return to his beloved Texas hill country ranch, where he entertained his best friends and family members, worked and hunted.

War hero, entrepreneur, rancher, family man—Major Edward Behne made numerous contributions to the betterment of his country and set an example for us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Major Edward Lee Behne and extend our condolences to his wife, Mary Lynne; two sons, Mark Behne and Mike Behne; four step children, Jimmy Gonzalez, Mark Gonzalez, Tanya Roland and Robert Hughey; brother, Richard Behne; sister, Gwen Pascal; grandchild, Josephine Behne; and 14 step grandchildren, as well as all of Major Behne's family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL GOMPERS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Gompers High School as it celebrates its seventieth anniversary of service in the South Bronx. The first New York School designed to serve as a vocational high school, Samuel Gompers is a trailblazing institution that I am proud to represent in Congress.

Gompers opened its doors on September 12, 1935 and immediately began to make valuable contributions to the nation. After training

machinists and welders during World War II, Gompers became one of the first high schools to adopt a technical program and to receive accreditation from the Middle States Atlantic School Association.

As the world evolves, Gompers adjusts its curriculum accordingly, ensuring its students are always a step ahead of rapid advances in technology. Majors such as Computer Pre-Engineering with Cisco Certification, Desktop Publishing, Computer Aided Design, Copier Repair, and Electronic Technician with A+ Certification guarantee that the young men and women of Samuel Gompers will possess the skills necessary to solve the complex technological problems of the 21st century.

The pursuit of excellence shared by the faculty and students of this institution creates an atmosphere that is ripe for achievement. Accordingly, the Gompers students have won numerous awards and competitions, including second place in the New York City All Academy Competition, third place in the New York/New Jersey Regional Botball tournament, and first place in the 2005 high school division of the USA Memory Championship. In addition, the school has graduated numerous students who have gone on to have very successful careers. Some of its more well known alumni include General Robert White, who piloted the X-15, the nation's first rocket aircraft; Damien Radcliffe, of the movie *Glory Road*; and former Gompers music teacher Alexander Altieri, who performed with legends such as Tito Puente and Eddie Palmieri.

Mr. Speaker, while I am truly impressed by the academic achievements of Gompers, it is the school's commitment to serving the community that makes me most proud. Currently, the school tutors students from neighborhood primary schools, holds food drives for the needy, and plants trees in an effort to beautify the South Bronx. In past years, the school sponsored a shared instruction program for students who attended high schools without trade programs.

"Through a depression and two wars, Samuel Gompers High school in the South Bronx has been supplying skilled craftsmen for the nation's industries," said a New York Post article in January of 1960. Fortunately, forty-six years and three wars later, Gompers continues to provide state of the art vocational and technical training in today's highly technological world.

Mr. Speaker, for its commitment to excellence and tireless efforts to empower those who have the least among us, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Samuel Gompers High School on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative LYNN WOOLSEY and Representative JERROLD NADLER, I am introducing legislation that would combat human sex trafficking by using the tax code to put traffickers in prison. Approximately 600,000 to 800,000

people are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence, and disease. However, trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. In addition to the men, women, and children from around the world who are brought into the United States for the sole purpose of being bought and sold by American citizens for commercial sex, in many communities, the victims themselves are Americans.

The legislation, which is based on an amendment attached by Senator GRASSLEY to S. 1321, the "Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act of 2005," would authorize \$2 million toward the establishment of an office within the IRS Criminal Investigation division to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws. This office would coordinate closely with the existing task forces in the Department of Justice that are focused on sex trafficking offenders. The IRS would be directed to focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay tax where the taxpayer is an "aggravated" non-filer. Additionally, the provision establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. The aggravated failure shall carry a maximum sentence of ten years per failure and shall increase the penalty from \$25,000 under current law to \$50,000. The legislation also increases other penalties for underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud.

The bill works to the benefit of the women and girls that are victimized by the traffickers not only by removing the traffickers from the streets but also by revising the IRS Whistleblower provisions that are currently in place so that the women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation of the trafficker will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately receive some payment for their participation.

It is important that we protect the victims of the sex trade industry, and punish the predators who exploit them.

REMEMBERING 9-11

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, in a day that will be looked upon as one of the worst days in American history, I remember it as a day where the world saw the best in all of us. Together, we mourned the loss of our fellow countrymen, grieved for the families they left behind and reaffirmed our resolve to cement the lessons of their sacrifice. Today, we celebrate their memory by forging a renewed commitment to never forget the lives lost on September 11th. For every life we lost, there was also a tale of courage and spirit.

I'd like to take a moment to tell you the story of a 53-year-old Catholic priest living in San Diego named Bill Metzdorf who is also a member of the California National Guard. On September 11th, Father Metzdorf was fulfilling his annual National Guard requirements by performing funerals at Arlington National Cem-

etry. Minutes following the attack on the Pentagon, Father Metzdorf was coordinating an impromptu prayer service. He would later accompany rescue workers into the Pentagon debris and perform blessings over the remains of those who did not survive the attack. He did this for more than two weeks, working 12-hour shifts.

Consoling family members, friends and survivors, Father Metzdorf helped strangers become friends, facing his difficult mission with unshakable resolve and fierce determination. Amidst all of the fear and uncertainty, Father Metzdorf stood with unwavering strength and gave others the gift of comfort. His story is similar to many of the police, fire and emergency responders who went into action, unafraid and unwilling to let cowards win the day.

As we honor those people lost five years ago and the heroes who helped rebuild an injured nation, let us also remember the men and women who are currently serving in our armed forces, who did not expect nor invite what would follow after September 11th. The people living in the San Diego region that I represent understand as well as anyone what kind of sacrifices come with military service. They have agreed to put a greater interest above their own and are the cornerstone of our Republic. They are defending the very thing the terrorists tried to destroy and we will never forget their service or sacrifices.

The truth is—we survived the worst and we still stand tall today. Bound by a common spirit of enterprise and a love of liberty, we have moved beyond the shadows cast by the events of 9-11 and persevered. The terrorists may have succeeded in tearing down structures, but no deed can extinguish the flames of freedom, or the American spirit.

55TH ANNIVERSARY OF AL-ANON

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 55th anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups. As co-chair of the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, I want to recognize the tremendous work of this dedicated organization.

For over half a century, Al-Anon and Alateen have been a key source of support and hope for families and friends of alcoholics and addicts all over the world, with over 26,000 groups in 115 different countries.

Policymakers often focus attention on the individual with chemical addiction and forget or underestimate how devastating a loved one's disease can be on friends and family members.

Thankfully, Al-Anon and Alateen have never forgotten and are always there whenever a hurting person reaches out for help. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Al-Anon and Alateen.

This month not only marks the 55th anniversary of Al-Anon, it is also the 17th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. As we celebrate the promise and possibility of recovery this month, we must also remember the loved ones impacted by this devastating disease. As the chemical depend-

ency professionals tell us, chemical addiction is truly a "family disease."

Thanks to Al-Anon, these individuals have a place to go where they can find hope and support. For that we owe this wonderful organization and all of its members our support and gratitude for 55 years of dedicated service.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Al-Anon and Alateen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall vote 451, final passage of H. Con. Res. 210—Supporting the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015; rollcall vote 452, final passage of H. Res. 622—To recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II; and, rollcall vote 453, final passage of H. Con. Res. 415—Condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is. Had I been present I would have voted: "aye," for rollcall vote 451, "aye" for rollcall vote 452, and "aye" for rollcall vote 453.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. RAYMOND A. BELL

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the accomplishments of a great man and a great Virginian, Dr. Raymond A. Bell, Senior Pastor at Mount Hope Baptist Church.

Dr. Bell celebrates his 20th Anniversary with Mount Hope Baptist Church on September 23, 2006.

Dr. Bell is a true pillar of his community. As a leader in the faith community and an advocate for his congregation, Dr. Bell is a real example of the values held dear by Virginians—hard work, perseverance, and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bell is a true American leader. A successful reverend and public servant who has worked tirelessly for so many years, I wish Dr. Bell many more years to so greatly impact his fellow Virginians.

"FLOOD INSURANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM ACT OF 2006"

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, one year after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is clear that more needs to be done to protect and prepare homeowners from future catastrophic flooding.

Which is why I have introduced the "Flood Insurance Community Outreach Grant Program Act of 2006." The intent of this legislation is to increase the overall participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) while moving the program toward long-term stability and solvency.

My legislation will forge a stronger partnership between the federal government and local floodplain managers. It will: Create a grant program within FEMA to educate property owners about their flood risk and about the importance of flood insurance; and Funds this grant program at \$50 million dollars annually over five years.

People at risk of flooding need to know their options and our local floodplain managers are our best partners in this effort. To put it quite simply, with 20,000 participating communities in NFIP—one size does not fit all. Our local partners know the risks, they know the landscape and in many cases they know the people. They know how to reach out to the people in their flood plain.

They can focus on the estimated 20 to 25 percent of property owners who have fallen through the cracks of our flood insurance system. People who are supposed to carry flood insurance, but do not carry it. Or use the money for an educational campaign directed towards people living in areas protected by levees, but not subject to the federal flood insurance requirement. Spreading the message: Levees can fail or overtop in severe weather. So it is common sense to carry flood insurance, even if the federal government no longer requires it.

This program can work.

Last year, with the support of a \$162,000 FEMA grant, my local flood protection body, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), conducted just such a flood insurance outreach initiative.

SAFCA reached out to more than 45,000 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders in the American River floodplain. In February 2005, this densely populated region was released from the Federal flood insurance requirement.

SAFCA's efforts yielded impressive results.

More than one year after SAFCA conducted outreach, 74 percent of the 45,000 NFIP policyholders who were removed from the Fed-

eral requirement had maintained their flood insurance protection.

Of this group, 43 percent now carry Preferred Risk flood insurance. Preferred Risk Policies provide property owners, who have been released from the federal requirement, but remain at risk of flooding, with full flood insurance protection for about half the price of a Standard flood policy. Because of their lower cost, it is likely that these Preferred Risk Policies will result in a higher level of policy retention over time.

Through this partnership with SAFCA, FEMA was able to retain a high number of flood insurance policies in the Sacramento region—a region that accounts for nearly 1 in 4 of all flood insurance policies in California.

Increasing the number of people who carry and hold on to their flood insurance will only strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program. And as Katrina made painfully clear: We need a strong and functional program to be there for our constituents in times of crisis.

While this grant program would be funded at \$50 million annually and authorized for 5 years, I want to emphasize that this grant program has an excellent return on its investment.

For FEMA to recoup its initial grant to SAFCA, 550 Preferred Risk Policies had to be sold to property owners who otherwise would have canceled their flood insurance. SAFCA accomplished this . . . more than 20 times over.

Because of the FEMA and SAFCA partnership, more than 35,000 property owners who did not have to carry flood insurance stayed in the federal flood insurance pool. What is more, nearly 13,000 policyholders in the American River floodplain switched to Preferred Risk Policies.

In short, FEMA got its money's worth. And this says nothing of the Sacramento premiums that will continue to come into the Federal flood insurance pool each year these policyholders maintain their flood insurance.

Again, most of these policyholders no longer have to buy flood insurance. They do so because it is the safe thing to do. Because SAFCA has alerted them to the ongoing flood risk in their community. And because they saw what happened on the Gulf Coast.

If we can have this type of success in Sacramento, I am confident it can be replicated across the country.

These local outreach efforts will augment and benefit FEMA's existing marketing program by targeting property owners who are most likely to leave the NFIP—those who have been or will be released from the Federal flood insurance requirement.

The lesson learned here is that people whose houses, apartments and businesses are vulnerable to flooding are willing to enter and stay in the National Flood Insurance Program when they are informed of the risk they face and the options available to them.

Let me be clear; I speak from experience. When it comes to flood risk, my district of Sacramento is the most at-risk river city in the Nation.

My highest priority is to provide the city of Sacramento, my neighbors and my constituents with the best flood protection possible. We are making strides in strengthening and reinforcing the levees in Sacramento and making improvements to Folsom Dam—but whenever I talk about these efforts, I remind my constituents, "If you live behind a levee, you should purchase flood insurance."

Finally, I am encouraged by the efforts we are making as a Nation to develop a comprehensive flood protection agenda.

FEMA is in the process of implementing their Map Modernization Program that will update our Nation's flood maps.

Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a national levee inventory. When completed, this inventory will provide communities with a greater understanding of their flooding vulnerabilities. It will also provide us with a good indication as a country as to what long-term investments need to be made toward our flood protection infrastructure.

Both the FEMA Remapping Initiative and the levee inventory are important to the long-term safety and economic security of our country. The "Flood Insurance Community Outreach Grant Program Act of 2006" would be an excellent resource for communities to augment these initiatives.

This bill is a step in the right direction in providing for comprehensive flood protection for property owners and communities. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.