

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH REFORM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the NIH Reform Act and congratulate Chairman BARTON on his hard work to develop the consensus product before us today. Without a doubt, the work performed at the NIH is invaluable. The groundbreaking research supported by NIH has provided a lifeline of hope to countless Americans living with diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS and many other illnesses.

Congress has not reauthorized the National Institutes of Health in more than a decade. Since its last reauthorization, the NIH has seen its funding double—a testament to the high priority that Congress places on the important research being performed at NIH. This reauthorization is an extension of our commitment to ensure that the NIH has the resources and proper management structures to conduct the kind of research that will ease the burden of disease in this country.

These days, Americans live with chronic conditions that cannot be remedied by studying one particular organ, or one part of the body. Obesity and diabetes, for example, affect virtually the entire body, and we need to facilitate increased cooperation among the NIH's Institutes and Centers to achieve real progress on these pervasive conditions. The bill before us would do just that by creating a Common Fund, through which the Director of the NIH could support the important research that involves several institutes and centers at the NIH.

While the Common Fund is an innovative approach toward trans-NIH research, Chairman BARTON also worked to ensure that this new fund did not overshadow the important research being performed at the individual institutes and centers. To strike this balance, the bill stipulates that only 50 percent of funding increases appropriated by Congress each year can be dedicated to the Common Fund. I would like to see an authorization level high enough to ensure adequate funding for the Common Fund and individual institutes and centers; however, in this tight budget environment, this provision is an important assurance that institutes and centers don't find themselves in a zero-sum game with the Common Fund.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I was proud to vote for this bill during our committee markup last week. My hometown of Houston is home to the world-class Texas Medical Center, which houses many facilities that conduct groundbreaking NIH research. The Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital conduct more NIH pediatric research than any other NIH grantee. The University of Texas's MD Ander-

son Cancer Center also conducts critical NIH research and is frequently recognized as the top cancer center in the country.

This bill will ensure that the NIH research performed at the Texas Medical Center—and other impressive research facilities across the nation—will yield continued contributions to our understanding of disease and the development of effective treatments to improve the health and well-being of all Americans. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MALLORY REALTY COMPANY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring a momentous occasion in my district to the attention of the House. It is not every day that any corporation in the United States reaches the milestone of 100 years in business. And Mallory Realty Company in my district has reached that milestone this year while still being operated by the same family.

LaGrange, Georgia was a very different place than it was when Arthur Eugene Mallory started his business in 1906 after graduating from business school in Atlanta. The Mallorys were not new to LaGrange. They had first come in 1827 and had been involved in the community for years.

1906 was boom time for LaGrange with the opening of new cotton mills and lots of construction of additional houses. It was the perfect time to open a realty business, and Arthur Mallory quickly became busy buying lots and managing rental properties.

As the business grew, more of the family became involved, and its influence in the community also grew. The Mallorys have served in the military, served on boards of local banks, and helped bring economic development to LaGrange.

Three generations of the Mallory family have served the community by working for Mallory Realty. Today, Mallory Realty is the oldest continuously family-owned business in LaGrange. Today they handle over 600 rental units for 52 property owners.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the entire House will join me in congratulating Mallory Realty on its 100 years of service, and wishing them all the best as they move into their second century of service to my state and our Nation.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that October

1–7 is Nuclear Medicine Week. Celebrated annually during the first full week of October at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, and corporations around the world, Nuclear Medicine Week encourages members of the molecular imaging and nuclear medicine community to take pride in their profession by recognizing their colleagues for their hard work and to educate the public about molecular imaging and nuclear science.

I am proud to note that the Reston, Virginia-based Society of Nuclear Medicine is in my District. The Society of Nuclear Medicine represents over 16,000 physicians, technologists, and scientists specializing in the research and practice of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine. Since the organization's founding in 1954, the Society of Nuclear Medicine has been dedicated to promoting the science, technology, and practical application of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine. I commend the Society and its members for their outstanding work to ensure that the 20 million people annually who rely on molecular imaging and nuclear medicine procedures to diagnose and manage diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's receive quality care.

Nuclear medicine is an established specialty that performs noninvasive molecular imaging procedures to diagnose and treat diseases such as cancer and to determine the effectiveness of therapeutic treatments. It contributes extensively to the management of patients with cancer, including cancer of the brain, breast, blood, bone, bone marrow, liver, lungs, pancreas, thyroid, ovaries, and prostate. Nuclear medicine treatments such as positron emission tomography (PET) scans are crucial in effectively identifying whether cancer is present or not, if it has spread, if it is responding to treatment, and the cancer is in remission.

Molecular imaging also continues to provide critical information to help doctors, technicians, and other health care personnel manage abnormalities of the heart, brain, and kidneys. In fact, recent advances in the detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease can be attributed to nuclear medicine imaging procedures. These advances—which were made possible by research performed by nuclear medicine professionals—helped lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend Medicare coverage to include PET scans for some beneficiaries who suffer from Alzheimer's and other dementia-related diseases.

From advances in cancer diagnosis and treatment to recent breakthroughs in Alzheimer's and dementia research, nuclear medicine is improving lives. I applaud the Society of Nuclear Medicine and its members for their efforts to educate others on these major healthcare innovations during Nuclear Medicine Week, and I urge my Colleagues to join me in supporting policies that will keep our Nation on the cutting edge of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine research.

● 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.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES AWARD CEREMONY**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in August 2006, I visited Professor Mesfin Wolde Mariam in Kaliti prison in Ethiopia. Though it was sad- dening to see him in that kind of a situation, I was nevertheless thrilled to have had the opportunity to pay my respect to a man I have known for over a decade. Professor Mesfin is one of the most dedicated and true champions of human rights. He chose to dedicate his life to studying famine and food security, writing about and promoting human rights and bringing to light issues often ignored and forgotten by many.

I first met Professor Mesfin in the early 1990s, shortly after he founded the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), the most effective human rights organization in Ethiopia. I was with several Members of Congress on an official visit to Ethiopia. We decided to go to EHRCO's office and hold our meeting with Professor Mesfin in order to show our support for EHRCO and to underscore the significance of their valuable work. It was a memorable meeting and the opportunity to learn of their monumental undertaking was very valuable.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time Mesfin is in prison. He has paid dearly over the decades for standing up for what he believes in and for exposing systematic abuses and sometimes neglect as the case may be over a period of several decades. What is amazing about this incredible human being is his sharpness and focus even in prison. This is a dedicated human being who chose to stay in his native Ethiopia to stand up for, and educate the helpless and the neglected, even though he had plenty of opportunity and offers to live comfortably elsewhere.

In April 2006, his three children wrote about their father stating: "Many months have passed since Mesfin Wolde Mariam, the father of all three of us, and grandfather of Semra Kristos, Kokeb, Tinsae and Oscar has been incarcerated. We miss him terribly and would love to see him home. No less important is our utmost respect, concern and commitment for the principles he has so staunchly promoted for longer than anyone of us has been around."

I was thrilled to learn that the New York Academy of Sciences decided to recognize Professor Mesfin for "his leadership in advocating for the disadvantage and in promoting human rights, civil society, and a peaceful transition to democracy." Professor Mesfin deserves this recognition and I thank the New York Academy of Science for its leadership and efforts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
CONTRACTOR ACCOUNTABILITY
ACT OF 2006**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that will fortify the current Fed-

eral debarment system. The United States is the largest consumer in the world and invests over \$215 billion in goods and services annually.

Yet the Federal government's watchdogs, the Federal suspension and debarment officials, currently lack the information they need to protect our business interests. We have no central way of accounting for the performance of our purchases. Beyond a listing of currently debarred or suspended persons, officials are limited to their individual agency's knowledge of an entity's track record, press reports and personal contacts with other agencies. The American public's knowledge is limited even further. Often times this allows Federal contractors and assistance recipients to repeatedly violate Federal law yet still receive millions of dollars from the Federal government. In a time when corporate accounting scandals are being revealed at an unprecedented pace, isn't it wise to have a full accounting of the Federal government's investments?

The Contractors Accountability Act of 2006 establishes a centralized database on actions taken against federal contractors and assistance participants, requiring a description of each of these actions. This will provide debar- ring officials with the information they need to protect the business interests of the United States. It places the burden of proving responsibility and subsequent eligibility for contracts or assistance on the person seeking contracts or assistance should they have been previously convicted of two exact or similar viola- tions that constitutes a charge for debarment. Additionally, it improves/clarifies the role of the Interagency Committee on Debarments and Suspension and provides for retention by the prosecuting Federal agency of fines paid by offender for reimbursement of costs associ- ated with suspension and debarment activities.

IN TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY ANN
WILLIS RICHARDS, CIVIC LEADER**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Dorothy Ann Willis Richards, known to us all as Ann Richards, and her lifelong commitment to equal rights, education and full participation of all people in the political process. Ann Richards lost her battle to esophageal cancer, at the age of 73, on September 13, 2006 at her home in Austin, Texas—she was only diagnosed with cancer in March of this year. Following her diagnosis she underwent chemotherapy treatments and was poised to fight her illness with vigor and tenacity just as she fought her personal demons and political opponents.

Ann Richards had a zest for life that was evident and infectious. She made those of us fortunate enough to have known her, smile just at the mention of her name. She was a wonderful public speaker and found ways to intimately connect with real people by tackling difficult issues that affected their everyday lives such as the relegation of women to the home and the exclusion of minorities in the political process.

Ann was tremendously tenacious but possessed a quick wit. She was well known for

her zingy one liners and warm sense of humor. She once said, "I learned early on that people liked you if you made them laugh," and throughout her lifetime she kept the jokes coming.

Born in Lakeview (now Lacy Lakeview) Texas in 1933, Ann was first introduced to politics after joining the debate team and partici- pating in Girls State—a program where high school students are invited to the capitol to participate in a mock government. However, before entering politics in 1976, she earned her teaching certificate and taught social stud- ies and history at Fulmore Junior High School. This was her life's passion. She once said that teaching was the hardest work she ever did and her commitment to educating youth did not dissipate with age.

Committed to issues of equity and inclusion, Ann spent much of her life championing causes related to the marginalization of women and minorities in particular. She dedi- cated herself to increasing the role of women in politics. Ann organized training sessions throughout Texas designed to empower women in politics and succeeded in improving the visibility of women in the National Demo- cratic Party. Leading by example, she em- barked upon her own political career in 1976 when she ran against and unseated a three term incumbent to become Travis County Commissioner. She would serve in this capac- ity for four years before being elected State Treasurer in 1982, becoming the first woman to hold an office at the State level since Mir- iam "Ma" Ferguson in the 1920s. Ann became the Governor of Texas in 1991 and continued to champion the inclusion of all people in the political process.

While in office, Ann oversaw a program of economic revitalization that grew the state's economy. As governor, Ann appointed Zan W. Holmes Jr., the first African American ap- pointed to the University of Texas Board of Regents; she redirected revenue from the state lottery to a school fund to support public education; and launched the Robin Hood plan, an attempt to equalize funding across school districts. Through these measures, Ann was successful in changing the ways that both Texas and our country thought about and treated women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and members of the Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Bisexual communities. Ann once remarked that she entered politics to help those who were often ignored by the Texas' male dominated establishment.

After losing the gubernatorial race to George W. Bush in 1995, Ann served in var- ious capacities. She worked as a political strategist and labored on many democratic campaigns, often campaigning on behalf of candidates like Howard Dean. She continued to teach, introducing courses such as Women and Leadership at the University of Texas; worked diligently to establish the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, which will open its doors next year; and lived as an ex- ample for all those battling substance abuse. These are but a few pieces of Ann's selfless contributions and they will never be forgotten.

We all mourn the loss of Dorothy Ann Willis Richards. Her words and her deeds, much like her striking silver hair, will long be remem- bered. Although she was a wonderful cook, she held that title contrary to the prevailing image of the quintessential woman, at the time, she did not want to be known for having

kept a clean home rather she wanted to be remembered for having helped others.

My friend, your wish has been granted. Through your words and deeds you have left an indelible mark on both the great state of Texas and on our Nation.

[From the New York Times,
September 14, 2006]

FORMER TEXAS GOV. ANN RICHARDS DIES
(By The Associated Press)

AUSTIN, TEXAS (AP)—Former Gov. Ann Richards, the witty and flamboyant Democrat who went from homemaker to national political celebrity, died Wednesday night after a battle with cancer, a family spokeswoman said. She was 73.

She died at home surrounded by her family, the spokeswoman said. Richards was found to have esophageal cancer in March and underwent chemotherapy treatments.

The silver-haired, silver-tongued Richards said she entered politics to help others—especially women and minorities who were often ignored by Texas' male-dominated establishment.

"I did not want my tombstone to read, 'She kept a really clean house.' I think I'd like them to remember me by saying, 'She opened government to everyone,'" Richards said shortly before leaving office in January 1995.

Whether or not she succeeded at that, there was no question she cracked open the door.

Her single term as governor had ended in a 1994 defeat to George W. Bush, who went from besting his father's silver-haired critic to the governor's office to the presidency.

"Texas has lost one of its great daughters," President Bush said in a statement after learning of Richards' death.

Two years before she was elected governor of Texas, Ann Richards electrified the 1988 Democratic National Convention with a keynote speech in which she joked that the Republican presidential nominee, George H.W. Bush, had been "born with a silver foot in his mouth."

A longtime champion of women and minorities in government who was serving at the time as Texas state treasurer, she won cheers when she reminded delegates that Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, "only backwards and in high heels."

As governor, Richards appointed the first black University of Texas regent, the first crime victim on the state Criminal Justice Board, the first disabled person on the human services board and the first teacher to lead the State Board of Education. Under Richards, the fabled Texas Rangers pinned stars on their first black and female officers.

Ron Kirk, the black former mayor of Dallas, said Richards helped him get his first political internship during a state constitutional convention in 1974 and later, as governor, made him secretary of state.

"She set the table so somebody like me could become mayor of Dallas," Kirk said.

She also polished Texas' image, courted movie producers, campaigned for the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico, oversaw a doubling of the state prison system and presided over rising student achievement scores and plunging dropout rates.

Throughout her years in office, her popularity remained high. One poll put it at over 60 percent the year she lost her re-election bid to Bush.

Republican Texas Gov. Rick Perry described Richards as "the epitome of Texas politics: a figure larger than life who had a gift for captivating the public with her great wit."

"Ann loved Texas, and Texans loved her," President Bush said. "As a public servant,

she earned respect and admiration. Ann became a national role model, and her charm, wit and candor brought a refreshing vitality to public life."

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said Richards never lost her zest for life.

"I wrote her a note when I heard about her cancer and she wrote me back a wonderful letter. She was upbeat and positive and I think she was going to go out with guns blazing," Hutchison said Wednesday night.

Richards was diagnosed with cancer in March and underwent chemotherapy treatments.

Her four adult children spent the day with her before she died Wednesday night at her home in Austin, said Cathy Bonner, a longtime family friend and family spokeswoman.

Born in Lakeview, Texas, in 1933, Richards grew up near Waco, married civil rights lawyer David Richards and spent her early adulthood volunteering in campaigns and raising four children. She often said the hardest job she ever had was as a public school teacher at Fulmore Junior High School in Austin.

In the early 1960s, she helped form the North Dallas Democratic Women, "basically to allow us to have something substantive to do; the regular Democratic Party and its organization was run by men who looked on women as little more than machine parts."

Richards served on the Travis County Commissioners Court in Austin for six years before jumping to a bigger arena in 1982 when her election as state treasurer made her the first woman elected statewide in nearly 50 years.

But politics took a toll. It cost her a marriage and forced her in 1980 to seek treatment for alcoholism.

"I had seen the very bottom of life," she once recalled. "I was so afraid I wouldn't be funny anymore. I just knew that I would lose my zany and my sense of humor. But I didn't. Recovery turned out to be a wonderful thing."

After her re-election defeat, Richards went on to give speeches, work as a commentator for Cable News Network and serve as a senior adviser in the New York office of Public Strategies.

In her last 10 years, Richards worked for many social causes and helped develop the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, scheduled to open in Austin in 2007.

Richards said she never missed being in public office. She grinned when asked what she might have done differently had she known she would be a one-term governor.

"Oh," she said, "I would probably have raised more hell."

HONORING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL
SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. There are an estimated 70,000 people in the United States who are affected by Spina Bifida, the most common, permanently disabling birth defect. Of particular concern is that members of the Hispanic community are disproportionately at risk of a Spina Bifida pregnancy. The rate of Spina Bifida in the Hispanic population is almost seven in 10,000 births, nearly 40 percent higher than the non-Hispanic rate. However, fortunately there are steps that can be taken to reduce that risk.

An important goal of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is increasing awareness and consumption of—a simple vitamin that can help reduce the risk of Spina Bifida. Recent studies have shown that if all women of childbearing age were to consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily prior to becoming pregnant and throughout the first trimester of pregnancy, the incidence of Spina Bifida could be reduced by up to 70 percent. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), all women of child-bearing age should consume a vitamin every day which provides them with 400 micrograms of folic acid. Multi-vitamins with folic acid or folic acid supplements can be found in the local grocery, pharmacy, or discount store.

Unfortunately at the current time, imported corn flours—unlike most wheat flour and cereal products—are not enriched with folic acid. Which means a majority of the corn-based products sold in the United States and consumed by the Hispanic community does not contain this important vitamin. To address this disparity and ensure that the foods consumed by the Hispanic community in the United States are enriched with folic acid, in July of this year, CDC, SBA, the National Council of La Raza, Wal-Mart, and Gruma announced an important initiative that has the potential to reduce the incidence of Spina Bifida among all babies by 70 percent by helping increase the intake of this nutrient among women.

With proper health care and support, people affected by Spina Bifida can live productive and fulfilling lives. In addition to supporting efforts to prevent Spina Bifida, I also urge additional federal attention to—and funding of—efforts, like the National Spina Bifida Program, to improve the quality-of-life for all who are affected by this birth defect. I would like to thank the SBA and its Florida chapters for their work on Spina Bifida Awareness Month and for being steadfast in their commitment to helping prevent and reduce Spina Bifida, particularly among the Hispanic community in the United States.

HONORING CHUCK GESCHKE AND
JOHN WARNOCK FOR THEIR IN-
NOVATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN
THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Chuck Geschke and Mr. John Warnock, founders of Adobe Systems, Inc. Although each man is most definitely worthy of his own separate congressional accolade, it is their teamwork and their shared passion that created a company that invented new forms of communication that assists thousands if not millions of people on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Geschke and Mr. Warnock are industry pioneers in the true spirit of Silicon Valley. Prior to co-founding Adobe, Geschke and Warnock worked at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center, PARC. Unable to convince

Xerox management of the commercial value of Mr. Warnock's Interpress graphics language for controlling printing, the two boldly left Xerox to start Adobe. At their new company, they developed an equivalent technology, PostScript, from scratch and brought it to market.

Today, their technology is ubiquitous. It assists hundreds, if not thousands of businesspeople, families, artists, entrepreneurs and dreamers in sharing their ideas across platforms and without boundaries.

Their ignition of the desktop publishing revolution through PostScript technology created new opportunities for the use, digitization and compression of ideas, images, and text. Their vision has evolved into a multi-solution approach to various challenges that include household names such as Acrobat, Illustrator and Photoshop—no longer a circus performer, an artistic occupation and a place to get film developed—but cool new ways to communicate, efficiently and clearly.

Geschke and Warnock's entrepreneurial success has been chronicled by some of the country's most influential business and computer industry publications, and they have received numerous awards for technical and managerial achievement, including their most recent, the Medal of Achievement Award from the American Electronics Association.

Innovation is rarely the effort of one person or one idea, but is rather the symbiosis of knowledge, intellect, genius, creativity, entrepreneurship, risk-taking and, in Silicon Valley, a kind of fleeting wing-and-a-prayer faith that things will turn out for the best. Mr. Geschke and Mr. Warnock have certainly filled the giant footsteps of their predecessors by taking their bold idea, based upon well-studied science and invention, moving forward with it and daring to do the impossible.

It is an honor to stand here in the shadow of their achievements and thank them for their contributions and the example they have set for the hopeful engineers, entrepreneurs and businesspeople of the coming generations.

A TRIBUTE TO BALTIMORE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY, SANDRA O'CONNOR

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise before you today to salute a woman who has spent many years working towards bettering the quality of life in the State of Maryland. Sadly, after 32 years of service the eight time elected Maryland State Attorney, Sandra O'Connor, will give up her post. She is the longest serving prosecutor in the State of Maryland.

As a former prosecutor, I had the privilege of working under Sandy during her tenure. I have great respect and admiration for the work she has done over the last 32 years. She continuously worked to support victims and witnesses. In fact, she is responsible for creating the first unit in Maryland to assist victims and witnesses. Mrs. O'Connor cracked down on criminals by establishing tough standards for people who use handguns as well as commit violent crimes in Baltimore

County. As a direct result of her leadership, Baltimore County has the most offenders serving no-parole sentences in Maryland. She has also established a Child Abuse and Sexual Offense Unit, and a Repeat Offender Unit. In addition, she has established programs for Rape Awareness and "Better Safe Than Sorry".

Without a doubt, this is a woman of great caliber. Her grace, dignity, and unparalleled determination set her apart from so many in her field. She worked tirelessly through the years to remain free from partisan views and instead focused on how to better assist Maryland citizens.

Mrs. O'Connor not only devoted her time to the State's Attorney for Baltimore County office, but also to a number of other organizations. She is the Vice-President and Director of the National District Attorney's Association; a past president of the Maryland State Attorney's Association; and she was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the State Justice Institute and the Advisory Board for the National Information Center. Mrs. O'Connor has also been honored by a number of organizations for her outstanding service. In addition to serving on these boards, Sandy also lectures at the National College of District Attorneys and in 1991 she was a recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award.

As a graduate of Catonsville Senior High, Indiana University, and Indiana University School of Law she has made her alma maters proud. Mrs. O'Connor has set the standard extremely high and leaves big shoes to fill. Confidently, I can say that she is the best in this field and Baltimore County was lucky to have her for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to salute State's Attorney for Baltimore County, Sandra O'Connor, for a remarkable job. She will always be remembered for raising the bar and setting the precedent for future Baltimore County State's Attorneys.

IN HONOR OF SEYMOUR ROBINSON, MAY 24, 1916—SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Seymour Robinson, a passionate advocate, a loving family man, and a good friend who passed away on Wednesday, September 13, 2006. Family and friends will be gathering for a memorial service on October 1 in Los Angeles to honor Seymour's long and full life, which was marked by a remarkable family, dedicated community service, and incredible friendships.

When an email came through from "SEYNITA@aol.com," you always knew you were in for a treat. Seymour reached out to so many of us on so many days—with emails containing an interesting article, a good joke, a personal observation, or a call to action. His email distribution list included members of Congress, community and business leaders, neighbors, friends, and just about anyone who was willing to sign up. So when the message arrived not long ago from SEYNITA@aol.com with the subject line "Seymour Robinson memorial service," everyone from our Nation's

leaders to faraway friends stopped in our tracks. Even when our loved ones and friends reach the amazing age of 90, we are still unprepared and deeply struck by their deaths. We come to rely on them to always be there, so that they might bestow upon us the strength and wisdom that we both need and appreciate.

Seymour brought contagious energy and vigor to his life's activities. A tireless advocate who was always there to roll up his sleeves and fight, Seymour fought as a labor organizer for living wages, as a community organizer for racial integration and harmony, and as a political coordinator for AARP/Vote. While serving on the Mayor's Advisory Committee, he helped former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan govern better. During my tenure here in this body, he has helped me serve the interests of our seniors better through his AARP/Vote advocacy.

And a special note about Seymour's service to our country during World War II.

Seymour received the Croix de Guerre for his contributions during the D-Day invasion and the liberation of Paris. Our country owes a debt of gratitude to veterans like Seymour who fought on the battlefields of yesteryear for the freedoms we hold today.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his beloved wife of 60 years, Anita Robinson; children: David, Lorraine, and Billy Robinson; and his granddaughters: Rachel and Mara Woods-Robinson. Rarely do partnerships like Anita and Seymour's achieve the depth of commitment they had. To see Seymour light up when sharing a story about their travels was to see a man so passionately in love with his wife and so proud and content with their life together.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heart-felt sorrow, yet great pride and admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Seymour Robinson. And though we are all comforted knowing that Seymour rests in peace, we also know that we have marching orders and must continue fighting for social justice in his honor.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6062, "the Community Development Enhancements Act of 2006." I want to thank Mr. FRANK for sponsoring this bill, and our distinguished Chairman Mr. OXLEY, who is an original sponsor of the bill. The bill will enhance the community development investments made by financial institutions.

The bill has two major provisions. One provision would increase the amount of investments that a financial institution can make for community development from 10 percent to 15 percent. This increase in the amount that banks can invest in such activities will enable the banks to invest more of its resources in investments that will directly benefit communities and low and moderate income persons.

Another provision directs portions of the investments made by the financial institutions to

promote the public welfare. Citing the actual legislation, the financial institutions “may make investments designed primarily to promote the public welfare, including the welfare of low and moderate income communities and families through housing, services and jobs.”

The changes mandated by this bill send a clear message to financial institutions that the needs of low and moderate income communities and families are important. More often than not, these groups are overlooked or their needs underestimated. In addition, the bill enables our financial institutions to look at investments on an investment by investment basis rather than in the aggregate.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6062, because it will strengthen investment in low and moderate income communities across this Nation. Financial institutions must continue to play a role in strengthening and stabilizing our communities and this bill will facilitate both.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5533

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5533, to advance the development of biological countermeasures.

The anthrax attacks of 2001 shined a bright light on our lack of preparedness to deal with a biological attack. While we were blessed that Cipro was an effective countermeasure for anthrax specifically, the attacks led us to realize the real possibility that our enemies could develop the capability to attack our country using several biological agents for which we do not have effective countermeasures.

This possibility strikes great fear in most Americans, who have been bombarded in recent years with the threat not only of bioterrorism but also pandemic flu. However, this uncertainty of a biological attack or pandemic flu is the same factor that often keeps manufacturers from making the investments necessary to bring a countermeasure to market.

When medical treatments for conditions such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol are developed, pharmaceutical manufacturers are willing to make the investment in research and development because there is a known demand for these treatments. We are lucky that there is no current demand for biological countermeasures. As a country responsible for protecting American citizens, however, we cannot wait for a biological attack or pandemic flu to occur before these countermeasures are developed.

This is a classic case of market failure, where the government must intervene and provide public resources to ensure that we have effective countermeasures before a biological attack occurs. This bill achieves that goal by providing the incentives to encourage the private sector to develop these treatments. Specifically, it would provide the necessary assurances that the federal government will purchase the end product for use in the event of an attack. Additionally, it will provide milestone payments to countermeasure developers to bridge the funding gap between basic research and countermeasure development.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will go a long way toward ensuring that we have effective biological countermeasures in place in the event of a biological attack or infectious disease pandemic.

TRIBUTE TO COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the cities in my district, and its commitment to advancing the true ideals of the American Dream.

Columbus, Georgia, was founded on the Chattahoochee River, and was the birthplace of the Coca-Cola formula. But it achieved another vital distinction earlier this year, when Columbus was recognized as Georgia’s largest city to achieve the “Entrepreneur Friendly Community” designation by the Georgia Department of Economic Development’s Entrepreneur and Small Business Office.

Columbus and its Chamber of Commerce have worked closely to develop a Small Business Development Center and encourage the location of businesses in Columbus. So far, the Business One Stop Shop has helped more than 850 small businesses in the city.

Achieving this designation and involved a lot of hard work and effort. But it also demonstrates the spirit of the people of Columbus—working hard, helping their neighbors, and doing everything possible to ensure that the American Dream is encouraged.

Mr. Speaker, Columbus is an example to our entire Nation of the possibilities that can be achieved. And their work will not stop now, but will continue as Columbus continues to grow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “CIVIL WAR ARTIFACT AUTHENTICITY ACT”

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the “Civil War Artifact Authenticity Act” that will curb the proliferation of fraudulent Civil War artifacts and memorabilia entering the legitimate market place.

Since the last shot fired in America’s Civil War, countless numbers of people across the Nation have become fascinated with this monumental conflict. From the battlefields of Virginia and Louisiana’s Red River to the hallowed ground of Antietam, Gettysburg, and thousands of other places that saw brother fighting brother, this war touched virtually every part of this country and every home and hearth. More than 600,000 combatants died from battle, disease, and imprisonment.

With the war’s end, soldiers who fought in that conflict returned frequently, often with families in tow, to the places of the most stirring moments of their lives. They revered the fields on which they fought and established numerous associations, North and South,

commemorating those who served. These veterans created strong links to their service and sacrifice, through their memoirs and other writings and the personal items and artifacts they carried on the battlefield and brought home to rest in conspicuous places on the mantles of their homes in recognition of the soldiers’ service and sacrifice.

Over the ensuing decades, as the soldiers and families who owned and cared for these artifacts died away, many of these heirlooms began to scatter, particularly as later generations forgot the importance of these historic belongings, failed to care for them, or sold the items to augment their incomes.

With the arrival of the 100th anniversary of the Civil War, and the deaths of the last Union and Confederate soldier, respectively, in 1956 and 1961, people began to consider the importance of these relics, personal items, letters, diaries, and other memorabilia that the soldiers took home. Scholars and researchers, collectors, museum curators, and others who knew the historic importance of these artifacts have renewed the connections to the conflict and have sought to protect and preserve the Civil War’s tangible heritage that the soldiers cherished. From the day the guns fell silent up until this moment, these artifacts and other memorabilia have helped us define and understand our Civil War.

The personal artifacts of the Civil War have spawned a large and growing interest in the Civil War. Probably more books and articles have been written about the war than any other era in our history. Researchers, writers, curators, and many average Americans have felt the need to own, study and preserve what that long-gone generation once owned. These artifacts which now populate the homes, shops, museums, schools and any number of other venues have great meaning for many of us today. As a result, entrepreneurs have opened commercial establishments to trade these relics in honest commercial enterprise.

The fascination with the Civil War has grown a new generation of sellers and collectors. Original artifacts and memorabilia have skyrocketed in value among collectors and others. A “belt plate,” which most people know as a buckle, sold for \$5 in 1960, and now cost as much as \$200 to a \$1,000 depending on the particular item. Sadly, unscrupulous people have opened new markets in fraudulent items that never saw the Civil War.

As a result, the entry of fake items into the market for relics and artifacts not only cheats people financially, but also disrupts historical scholarship and the legitimate display in museums and other venues. Internet trade makes it easier for people to sell fake items to unschooled and unwary buyers because the con artists are unknown, many working overseas to flood the market with costly junk. To protect the true artifacts of the Civil War era, I propose new legislation designed to interfere with the manufacture and sale of fraudulent items, and increasing the awareness among sellers and buyers of the large trade in these fake items.

My bill would add a second title to existing Federal law, the “Hobby Protection Act,” which requires that fake political items and memorabilia, and numismatic items must have the words “copy” or “facsimile” clearly stamped on them to ensure that they are recognized as replicas or non-authentic items. Because original Civil War artifacts and

memorabilia are highly prized and can reach into the thousands of dollars depending on the particular item, those determined to make a dishonest dollar, can easily replicate an original item, or worse, produce an item that is a pure fantasy piece—an artifact that never existed during the Civil War.

While this legislation will not end the trafficking in fake Civil War items, it will provide sanctions through the Federal Trade Commission for manufacturers who purport to offer authentic Civil War relics and artifacts, when they are in fact fake junk.

I know that the House will adjourn soon, and I have little expectation this bill will be considered. It is my hope that bill will serve as a marker and a starting point for what the House may consider next session and these artifacts and memorabilia of the Civil War era will retain their historic importance for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON & JOHNSON
AND TIBOTEC THERAPEUTICS
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
NEW DRUG FOR HIV/AIDS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnson & Johnson and Tibotec Therapeutics on its entry into the HIV/AIDS market with the launch of Prezista. On June 23, 2006 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval to the anti-HIV medication Prezista™ (darunavir) tablets. Prezista, a protease inhibitor previously known as TMC114, was developed by Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and will be marketed in the U.S. by Tibotec Therapeutics. Prezista is indicated for treatment-experienced adult patients, such as those with HIV-1 strains resistant to more than one protease inhibitor.

I am pleased that a company in my home state of New Jersey has responded to the HIV/AIDS crisis in a time when new innovations are essential in order to provide life saving medications to HIV/AIDS patients.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, FDA, has granted accelerated approval to the anti-HIV medication Prezista™ (darunavir) tablets. Prezista, which is a protease inhibitor previously known as TMC114 was developed, by Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

The FDA accelerated approval procedures allow for earlier approval of drugs that provide a meaningful therapeutic advantage over existing treatment for serious or life-threatening diseases. This approval is based on the 24-week analysis of HIV viral load and CD4+ cell counts from the pooled analysis of the TMC114-C213, POWER 1, and TMC114-C202, POWER 2, studies.

One of the most challenging obstacles in the care for HIV is finding proper therapies for treatment-experienced patients. Prezista is an important new option for the thousands of people with HIV in the United States who are resistant to more than one protease inhibitor.

Additionally, the Fair Pricing Coalition believes that Tibotec Therapeutics has priced Prezista responsibly. This is a particularly

thoughtful move on the company's part since it recognizes the crisis of federal funding constraints faced by payers in and out of government and the health care system. I am pleased to see that the spirit of philanthropy has not eluded the makers of this much needed drug by putting the needs of patients first.

Johnson & Johnson recognizes the unparalleled global challenge posed by the AIDS epidemic and our response to collaborate in the international response to HIV, particularly through providing access to our HIV medications. For sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed countries, Johnson & Johnson is actively pursuing licensing and technology agreements in order to enhance the affordability of Prezista. They are in negotiations with generic manufacturers and anticipate that by working with generic manufacturers, Prezista/darunavir can be offered at substantially reduced prices.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the makers of this drug and encourage more companies to follow in their footsteps.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4830, BORDER TUNNEL
PREVENTION ACT OF 2006; FOR
CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094,
COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT
OF 2006; AND FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 6095, IMMIGRATION
LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation desperately needs comprehensive immigration reform, but the Republican majority is more interested in playing politics with this issue than working towards a true solution.

We need to make sure that we have control of our borders. That is why I support H.R. 4830, the Border Tunnel Prevention Act, and why I have previously supported other efforts to secure our border including the expansion of physical barriers and fencing in key areas.

H.R. 4830 supports the sound policy of amending the federal criminal code to prohibit the construction or financing of an unauthorized tunnel under our border and we are right to ensure strict penalties for anyone who does this.

However, if the Republican leadership was truly serious about securing our borders and preventing the entry of undocumented immigrants, they would fully fund the additional 10,000 border agents that we authorized when we passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, Public Law 108-458, last year. The addition of these agents, which had broad bipartisan support, was a provision that would have a direct impact on securing both our Southern and Northern borders and had broad bipartisan support. However, when it comes time to fund these additional agents, Congress consistently comes up short.

There are two other provisions that we are considering that I do not support—H.R. 6094, the so-called Community Protection Act and H.R. 6095, the so-called Immigration Law Enforcement Act.

I oppose H.R. 6094, the so-called Community Protection Act, because it would overturn two Supreme Court decisions that currently prevent unlawful indefinite detention of non-citizens. If passed, it would permit the indefinite and perhaps permanent detention of non-citizens who cannot be deported due to no fault of their own.

The severe curtailment of Due Process in this provision will lead to erroneous removal of people who should not have been deported, such as U.S. citizens who could not quickly provide proof of their U.S. citizenship, or an abused spouse or child who could not quickly show their eligibility for relief under VAWA or someone who was not in fact inadmissible due to a criminal ground of inadmissibility but could not timely hire a lawyer who knew the complex case law that governed his or her admissibility.

I oppose H.R. 6095, the so-called Immigration Law Enforcement Act, which would harm the relationship between the police and immigrants and citizens. It will obstruct police in their mission of keeping our streets safe. Essentially the bill is asking the State and local police to pick up the slack for the Federal Government.

That is why it is opposed by scores of professional law enforcement associations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major Cities Chiefs Association. They know this is a bad idea and I urge my colleagues to join them in opposition to this bill.

Finally, I want to reiterate my support for comprehensive immigration reform. Not only do these bills fail to adequately address that need, but they could actually make our system more dysfunctional. These bills do not significantly enhance border security or address undocumented immigration; rather, they would limit the basic rights and protections this nation were founded upon.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Republican majority is more interested in looking like they are doing something, than actually solving the problem. The American people know better and they know political maneuvering and inaction when they see it.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTI-SLAVE TRADE ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, next year will be the 200th anniversary of the ending of the transatlantic trade by Great Britain, the beginning of the end of what was perhaps the greatest human tragedy in history.

I join the members of the British Parliament and the African Diaspora across the globe in anticipation of the 200th anniversary of the passage of the Anti-Slave Trade Act by the British Parliament in 1807.

For four and a half decades, hundreds of millions of Africans were bought and sold into slavery as part of the transatlantic slave trade while many others lost their lives during the Middle Passage. I believe this anniversary presents America with an opportunity to reflect on this dark part of our history and speak out

against the continued conditions of slavery that millions still face across the globe.

Indeed, as America continues to mourn and regret its involvement in the human rights violations of that time, we must not forget the wonderful legacy of African-American abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and many others. It was through their courage and determination that slavery ended in the United States.

We must continue to meet the challenge of repairing the harm done to black Americans by the legacy of slavery in this Nation. By so doing, let us remember the connection between policymaking and the need for a more equitable society. Congress must continue to pass legislation which allows for broader access to education, health care, and jobs for minority groups across the country. Much like the fight against slavery, we must strengthen our resolve to fight poverty, crime, and other conditions that many face in the U.S.

This is also a time for us to show a renewed commitment to the African continent, recognizing it as the ancestral home to the Diaspora across the globe. We must remember that millions of people were ripped from their homes, taken on a perilous journey across the Atlantic, and stripped of their culture and language. As a result, the loss of life and potential that Africa endured was a contributing factor to the under-development the continent faces today. We must show our commitment through trade, education, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and poverty in general.

It is my hope that this 200th anniversary will be a way of bringing education and awareness about the rich heritage and culture of Africa embedded in America and the Caribbean through the Diaspora. I look forward to next year's anniversary. It is my hope that in remembering slavery we are reminded that we must never allow that dark history to repeat itself.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN LATINO HERITAGE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support tonight of H.R. 2134—the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community Act.

I would like to commend Chairman POMBO for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor, as well as the bill's author Congressman XAVIER BECERRA for his support.

As the Republican lead of this legislation, I am pleased that this bill would take the next step toward ensuring that our premier institutions for the arts and humanities include a greater representation of Hispanic-American cultural contributions.

The commission created by this bill would have the responsibility of examining and re-

porting to Congress and the President a plan to establish a new museum dedicated to the art, history, and culture of the Hispanic-American community.

There are nearly 40 million United States residents who share a cultural heritage which is not fully represented by any of the permanent exhibits in Washington museums.

It is only fitting that this bill is brought to the floor of this body during Hispanic Heritage Month.

As the first Hispanic-American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress, I have been proud to represent my diverse South Florida constituency for over 16 years.

Americans of Hispanic heritage are a youthful population and are projected to play an increasing role in the Nation's economy and workforce.

As Hispanic-Americans, we have come a long way.

We are contributing in record numbers in the fields of business, education, healthcare, and at all levels of government service.

As a legislative body, Congress is committed to continue to propel thousands of Hispanic-Americans across the nation into the realization of the American dream.

A stronger, healthier, and more educated Hispanic American population contributes to the greatness of this wonderful nation making us competitive in the global market.

The Hispanic-American community is one of America's largest growing populations. Congress should continue to provide opportunities for the Hispanic-American community to continue succeeding and to showcase the wealth of talent that abounds.

A museum for the Hispanic-American community would honor all Americans.

The great diversity of ethnicities and nationalities of the people in the United States is a testament to the power of America's great tradition as a Nation that embraces all walks of life.

This National Museum will symbolize our country's commitment to proudly display America's rich cultural diversity.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to ensure that visitors to our nation's capital gain a more complete understanding of who we are as Americans.

FURTHER THANKS TO SUBHASRI RAMANATHAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, years before Sue Ramanathan became Democratic Chief Counsel and Deputy Staff Director on the Committee on Homeland Security, I had the pleasure of having due on my personal staff for 5 years as Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor on immigration, trade, tax, and many other issues.

On my staff, Sue was always ready and willing to use her keen understanding of immigration policy to work with me on several pieces of immigration related legislation, knowledge

and experience she used so well in her tenure on the Homeland Security Committee. In fact, Sue became known as one of a select few staff members in the House of Representatives with a deep knowledge of immigration policy. In other words, Sue was the "go-to" staff member on immigration.

While Sue demonstrated a strong expertise in immigration policy both on my staff and as Chief Counsel on Homeland Security, Sue also had a passion and interest in other policy areas. From technology and trade to tax and foreign policy, Sue always had a powerful grasp of the issues.

After almost 10 years as a staff member in the House of Representatives, Sue has now moved onto the General Accountability Office. Congress has lost a valuable staff member, but the GAO has gained a tremendous asset. I am proud that Sue was once a member of my staff, and grateful that she served the Congress as a whole on the staff of the Homeland Security Committee. I wish her the best in her new position at the GAO.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DONALD AND MARGARET MERGLER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a very significant occasion. I am proud to represent two people who have lived a full life of love and happiness. Donald and Margaret Mergler celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary on September 4, 2006.

The Merglers are believed to be the oldest living married couple in the United States. In the world we live in today, marriages sometimes don't last more than a year let alone 80. This couple is truly worthy of recognition for such a joyous occasion.

The 98-year-olds have known each other since grade school. They were both born and raised in Havre de Grace, Maryland. As children in grade school the couple knew each other, but it wasn't until Donald offered Margaret a ride home from their church's Christmas pageant, the two became a couple.

After the Merglers were married, Mr. Mergler's career took them on a tour of Maryland's neighboring states. Mr. Mergler was a jockey at the race tracks for many years. After he hung up his reins, Mr. Mergler relocated the family back to the Havre de Grace area where he worked as an assemblyman for the company now referred to as Lockheed Martin. The couple remained here for the rest of their working years. While Mr. Mergler put together helicopters for Boeing, Mrs. Mergler chauffeured military persons and supervised mail distribution at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me to commemorate the union of Donald and Margaret Mergler. Much can be learned from the 98-year-old couple about love, life, and happiness. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to them for reaching their 80th wedding anniversary.

IN HONOR OF SISTER DIANE
DONOGHUE ON THE OCCASION OF
HER RETIREMENT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Diane Donoghue, a uniquely committed individual who has contributed over 50 years of her talents and passion toward helping others. On October 5, 2006, community members and leaders throughout Los Angeles will be honoring Sister Diane at a "Legacy Celebration" in recognition of her retirement from the Esperanza Community Housing Corporation.

"Esperanza"—a Spanish word that rolls off the tongue with a powerful vibration—in English means "hope." Throughout the scope of her public service career, Sister Diane has looked into the eyes of those losing hope—teenagers struggling with mental health issues, heroin-addicted women, ailing garment workers without health insurance, and parents with housing eviction notices—and offered the gift of hope. But, as Sister Diane personally knows, offering the gift of hope is not an easy or simple task—it's a grave and serious responsibility that demands the hard work of collaboratively developing real, feasible solutions and tools for success.

Diane Catherine Donoghue entered the Sisters of Social Service in 1955 and began her journey of challenging unjust social and economic forces that has now spanned over 50 years. Her journey led her to the heart of my congressional district and in 1985 Sister Diane became the community organizer for St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church at Adams Boulevard and Figueroa Street in South Central Los Angeles. When she heard the plea of a family who was about to be evicted to make room for another garment factory, and she listened to other families' troubles finding safe and affordable housing, she took action. Sister Diane worked with the local community to form the Esperanza Community Housing Corporation and within 9 years they completed a \$6.5 million project, Villa Esperanza Apartments, which offers 33 units of affordable housing for large families, a community center, and an on-site Head Start program. Nine additional housing projects, now totaling 165 units of safe, affordable housing, followed as a result of the work of Sister Diane and the Esperanza Community Housing Corporation.

Building on its success, the Esperanza Community Housing Corporation expanded its mission to become a multipurpose social service agency featuring five program areas that address the neighborhood's most pressing needs: affordable housing, community health, education, arts and science, and economic development.

As an economic development project, Sister Diane and Esperanza undertook the task of creating the Mercado la Paloma in South Los Angeles. This dynamic neighborhood-based public market site allows close to 20 low-income entrepreneurs to realize the dream of owning their own business, gives 110 individuals jobs, and provides community gathering space and offices for local non-profits. The Mercado today functions as a vibrant neigh-

borhood center and marketplace because of the leadership and efforts of Sister Diane. The Mercado provides a fitting location to hold her Legacy Celebration.

Not surprisingly, Sister Diane's 50-year public service career has been marked by numerous awards: the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing, the UCLA Alumni Award for Community Service, the Empowerment Award from the Los Angeles Archdiocese, an Honorary Doctorate from Occidental College, and the Courage in Community Award from the McAuley Institute. I would argue though that her greatest achievements are not marked by awards, but by the vastly improved living conditions of those she has served in the community. Her greatest awards are not plaques, but the faces you see entering the Villa Esperanza apartment complex or behind the counter at a shop within the Mercado.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today to salute this exceptional woman. Romans iv.18 states, "Who against hope believed in hope." Sister Diane Donoghue and her legacy embody this New Testament scripture. Throughout her 50-year public service career, when faced with the needs of the destitute and downtrodden, she believed in hope, helped others believe in hope, and created a path toward positive change in countless lives.

**NONADMITTED AND REINSURANCE
REFORM ACT OF 2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Non-admitted and Reinsurance Reform Act of 2006, reported by the Committee on Financial Services. I want to thank the Gentledady from Florida, Ms. BROWN-WAITE, for sponsoring this bill and the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, Mr. OXLEY for reporting this legislation out of the Committee.

If any of you have visited the Gulf Region in the last year since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, you know how essential it is that we come to grips with reality and the potential for a major disaster by reforming nonadmitted and reinsurance in this nation. More than half the City of New Orleans' pre-storm population of 450,000 has not returned to the City, while large areas of the City remain uninhabitable. We were not adequately insured to deal with the aftermath of Katrina and Rita—no more than we are today to address another disaster somewhere else in this country.

We all know that one of the major elements to any recovery after a disaster is insurance, and many of us have heard the horror stories related to the damage incurred as a result of the hurricanes in the Gulf Region. Insurance is one aspect of recovery that we need to be able to rely on after a catastrophe to help make victims whole again. However, on many occasions the reverse has been true, and insurance claims have gone unpaid, or the claims paid have not been commensurate with the damage to the property. In addition, there are many who have not been able to afford in-

surance and have not been covered, or there are those who had limited and inadequate insurance prior to a natural catastrophe. In many places like California, many homeowners decide not to carry disaster insurance at all, precisely because they believe that the government will become involved if a natural catastrophe occurs.

In the Gulf Region, many insurance companies did not offer flood damage insurance. Although homeowners have the option to obtain a policy under various state programs, it is unaffordable for most. Most people do not carry any insurance for protection from disasters for this reason. In New Orleans, only one-half of the households had flood insurance under the government's National Flood Insurance program.

This bill will create more uniformity among the different state insurance programs by streamlining the regulation of nonadmitted and reinsurance activities. This would be accomplished primarily through preempting various state laws. While these state laws would not be replaced with federal law, laws from other states or model laws of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Further, the bill requires a GAO study of the non-admitted insurance market. Currently, rather than requiring consumers who may be unable to find insurance from a licensed insurer to go without insurance, states have allowed consumers to purchase insurance from non-licensed insurers. These nonadmitted or surplus line insurers provide insurance for natural disasters. Disaster insurance is regulated and taxed by the state by placing requirements on the brokers who initiate the transactions. Because non-admitted and reinsurance policies are different from state to state, this bill will allow for "harmonization" of state laws. It will bring some sanity to the insurance marketplace, particularly where disasters are concerned. Many states have seen a dramatic increase in the cost of non-admitted and reinsurance forcing some businesses to relocate, resulting in unemployment and lost revenue. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY SANDERS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a tribute to a great Georgian and a great American. Larry Sanders has been a fixture of the Columbus community for more than 20 years.

Larry moved to Columbus 22 years ago and began to work with the Columbus Regional Healthcare System and eventually moved to the CEO and board chairman positions. Throughout his service, Larry has been involved in a wide spectrum of community activities, including serving as chairman of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, and serving on the boards of the Boy Scouts, Columbus Rotary, and Leadership Columbus.

He was recently recognized as a recipient of the Chattahoochee Council of the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award. In receiving that award, he joins the ranks of such luminaries as former Senator Sam Nunn. The

Chattahoochee Council gives the award to recognize an individual or group that undertakes outstanding service to our Nation, the state, or the local community. By presenting the award, the Chattahoochee Council calls attention to the honors, contributions, and good works of individuals.

Mr. Speaker, Larry's service to our state and Nation definitely sets an example for young people across the country. As the Distinguished Citizen this year, I call the House to remember his accomplishments and service as we all continue serving our states and this country.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO LINDA FREED ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mrs. Linda Freed, upon her retirement from her position as editor of the Bryan Times newspaper in Bryan, Ohio.

Linda Freed grew up in the small community of Bryan, Ohio, in Williams County where the journalistic skills which have served her well over the years were instilled at an early age. It is said, that as early as junior high, Linda began expressing her desire to write for a newspaper. Staying true to her dreams, Linda began her career at the Bryan Times newspaper on her 30th birthday as a secretary to the advertising manager on September 22, 1966. After only 1 year in that capacity, Linda quickly jumped at an opportunity to move to the news side of the paper by becoming their society editor.

Over the next 10 years, Linda served as the paper's society editor, where she quickly garnered a following of avid readers who enjoyed her weekly column entitled; "Thoughts from Under the Dryer." Linda's "Thoughts from Under the Dryer" became an opportunity to share her thoughts about being a mother, being a wife, and everyday life experiences. Then in 1977, Linda's experience and devotion to the community of Bryan, Ohio, propelled her to the position of editor of the Bryan Times where her journalistic integrity has served the community well for over 19 years. With more than 2,000 columns and 40 years of service, Linda can indeed be proud of her career at the Bryan Times.

Like many in northwest Ohio, I too have had the privilege of meeting with Linda to discuss the issues that affect the residents of Bryan, Ohio. And, each time I was interviewed by Linda, I found her to be fair and knowledgeable of not only the issues we were discussing, but also of the political climate both here in northwest Ohio and in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mrs. Linda Freed. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Linda, who care about their citizens' well being and stability. We wish Linda, her husband, Lyle, and their two sons, David and Douglas all the best as we pay tribute to one of the Fifth District's finest citizens.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS PROMOTING GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF EFFECTIVE RUN-AWAY YOUTH PREVENTION PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers H. Res. 1009 this week, I would like to highlight the outstanding efforts of an organization in my district, Promise House of Dallas. Since 1984, Promise House has served as a pillar of the Dallas community through its mission to serve the needs of runaway and homeless youth throughout our community.

Promise House was originally established by Lovers Lane United Methodist Church to provide a 16 bed emergency shelter for teenagers. Today, this program provides over eight large programs for runaway, homeless, and at-risk students, and is supported by numerous churches, businesses, and individuals. At-risk youth and their families may access services ranging from food and clothing to counseling, education, transitional living arrangements, and parenting services. With communal support, the Promise House staff works endlessly to offer hope to youth and families in crisis.

Promise House has helped countless youths pursue their hopes and dreams. When he entered Promise House, Justin was a 17-year-old young man who was physically and emotionally abused by his father. Between the abuse and family disarray, Justin turned to aggressive behavior and heavy drug usage. In a courageous and lifesaving decision, Justin came to Promise House for help. Promise House provided Justin with a safe environment and a variety of services, including shelter, counseling, intensive case management and life skills therapy. Through the support of Promise House, Justin turned his life around. Justin continued therapy services even after leaving Promise House and successfully graduated from high school. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that Justin is a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas and a recipient of the Blake Davis Memorial Scholarship—established by Promise House to promote opportunities for higher education and a better life.

Justin's story serves as an example of how Promise House provides youths with a safe haven to help meet their life goals. I am proud of Promise House's selfless efforts in reaching out with open arms to the needs of the children and teenagers in the north Texas area.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUFUS JOHNSON

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak in recognition of the accomplishments of Rufus Johnson of Kerrville, Texas. Of African-American and Cherokee descent,

Mr. Johnson was born in Maryland in May 1911 and faced adversity at a very early age. Having lost his mother when he was 4 years old, he never allowed any situation to dictate his path.

After his mother passed away, Mr. Johnson was sent to live with his aunt and uncle in Pennsylvania. As a boy in Pennsylvania, he was forbidden to swim in the city pool. This cost him his much coveted Boy Scouts of America Eagle rank because he could not earn the swimming merit badge. Mr. Johnson never forgot this missed opportunity, and ironically, it was this missed opportunity that led him on his path to historical significance.

Among his many life achievements, Mr. Johnson worked in the White House of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and became a successful attorney.

Immediately after enrolling at Howard University in Washington, DC, he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, took swimming lessons and became a certified lifeguard.

Mr. Johnson's certification won him a job as the White House Pool Lifeguard during FDR's Presidency. Having earned the respect and admiration of FDR, Mr. Johnson became his butler as well, a position that often included lifting the President from his chair. Mr. Johnson recalls with great respect the pride and independence of President Roosevelt.

Mr. Johnson earned a place in White House history when a bowl of soup on a tray he was carrying tipped over and spilled on the President's lap. According to Mr. Johnson, it was Roosevelt who intentionally, but secretly, tipped the tray and caused the bowl to land on himself during a meeting. Mr. Johnson said FDR continued the conversation without pause and earned the respect of his adversary sitting at the dinner table with him.

When First Lady Roosevelt learned that Mr. Johnson was preparing to take the bar exam, she had a desk set up in the White House to allow him to study for 2 hours every day.

In October 1942, he was called to active duty as a captain in the 92nd Infantry Division of African-American soldiers. Mr. Johnson earned the admiration and respect of all who served with him and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantry Badge and received a special regimental citation for bravery. He was called to duty and served again during the Korean war, where he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After his service in the military, Mr. Johnson set up a law practice in California and also performed pro bono work. He argued successfully before the California Supreme Court in defense of the First Amendment rights of American Indians. He won the decision and it still stands today.

Mr. Johnson relocated to Kerrville in 1994 where he still resides with his step-daughter, Yvonne Smith. He turned 95 last May, and the Texas State Legislature and the White House paid tribute to him on his birthday. Tonight I pay tribute to Rufus Johnson for his years of service to our Nation. He is a respected member of his community, and he has a life-story that deserves to be remembered.

LAS CIENEGAS ENHANCEMENT
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5016, the Las Cienegas Enhancement Act.

I would like to thank Chairman POMBO of the Resources Committee and Chairman WALDEN of the Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee for their leadership and support of this measure.

The land exchange in this legislation releases an urban parcel of federal land in the path of development, and it puts into federal hands an outlying area important for its natural beauty and proximity to the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and the Coronado National Forest. It will provide hunters and visitors much-needed road access to the Whetstone Mountains, a "sky island" that is being surrounded by development.

This exchange proposal has been developed through a 4-year consultative process. The exchange has the support of the Governor of Arizona, the City Manager of Tucson, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, conservationists and private landowners. The Pima County Board of Supervisors also supports the bill for helping protect open space in the Cienega Valley.

The two parcels of land proposed in exchange are located near Tucson in the eastern half of Pima County.

The Bureau of Land Management parcel is a federal inholding of 1,280 acres located near Corona de Tucson, a community on the urbanized fringe of greater Tucson.

The private parcel offered for exchange consists of 2,707 acres of upland Sonoran desert adjacent to the Coronado National Forest and close to both the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, which are administered by Pima County.

Land appraisals will follow statutory procedures and be subject to approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this bill stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when local community groups and the BLM work together to maximize both the recreation and conservation goals of our federal lands, allowing the enhancement and protection of our lands, rivers, creeks, and wildlife that enrich our lives in the West.

In sum, I am pleased to offer this bill as a capstone to my resource conservation efforts during 11 terms in Congress.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4830, BORDER TUNNEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2006; FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006; AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6095, IMMIGRATION LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 6095—the Immigration Law Enforcement Act of 2006—and H.R. 6094—the Community Protection Act. Like my colleagues, I am firmly committed to protecting our borders and strengthening our immigration policies. However, these bills do neither.

Instead of a comprehensive immigration reform bill that provides real security to our Nation's borders, these bills are band aids with harmful provisions that will not make us safer or fix our broken immigration system.

For example, the Immigration Law Enforcement Act will empower state and local police to enforce immigration laws. This provision, which is opposed by state and local officials, will take valuable time and resources away from urgent police responsibilities, weakening their ability to respond to serious crimes such as murder, rape, and gang activity. State and local law enforcement officials are also opposed to the legislation because this provision will break down any trust that has been established between the police and local communities and will deter immigrants from reporting crimes or talking to state and local officials, for fear that their immigration status or that of a loved one could come under scrutiny. As a result, crimes and dangerous situations will go unreported, allowing criminals to roam free, and make us all less safe. Dealing with our Nation's immigration issues should remain the responsibility of the federal Department of Homeland Security.

The Community Protection Act would also permit the indefinite and permanent detention of noncitizens, who through no fault of their own, cannot be deported. This includes asylum seekers fleeing persecution from countries such as Iran, North Korea and Vietnam. Mr. Speaker, our government already has clear authority to detain immigrants and seek prolonged detention of suspected immigrants; it is inhumane and dangerous to our democracy and the rule of law to grant the government nearly unrestricted authority to lock up indefinitely individuals who are not serving a criminal sentence.

Finally, the Community Protection Act renders deportable a noncitizen whom the government only suspects to be a gang member. I strongly support efforts to deport criminal aliens out of our country and our efforts to combat gang violence, which threatens communities throughout the country. My objection to this bill is that it makes people deportable who have never committed a crime, but are merely considered by DHS to be a member of a group deemed by the Attorney General to

be bad. This makes it possible for immigrants to be deported with little or no opportunity to defend themselves even in the case of guilt by association. Mr. Speaker, this bill is unnecessary because our government can already deport gang members, or any other foreign national convicted of an aggravated felony, or a misdemeanor such as shoplifting.

If we are truly to protect our borders and address our immigration issues, Congress must resolve the differences between the House and Senate passed immigration bills and pass comprehensive immigration and border protection legislation. No one can deny that our borders need protection or that our immigration system is broken and that it is in serious need of overhaul. These bills do nothing to effectively address these critical issues.

It is unfortunate that as serious as our border and immigration problems are these bills ignore the real solutions necessary to effectively address our legitimate immigration and border problems. I urge my colleagues to join me in defeating these two bills.

TRIBUTE TO THE PIO DECIMO
CENTER**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pio Decimo Center in Tucson, Arizona on their 60th Anniversary.

Pio Decimo began in Barrio Santa Rosa, in order to address the needs of the poor and hungry of the community. Over the years, it is has expanded to provide individuals and families with comprehensive and supportive services throughout Tucson and Pima County. A not-for-profit organization, Pio Decimo provides health and human services that promote education, health family relationships, self-sufficiency and positive and sustainable life change.

The Pio Decimo staff is at the heart of the organization's success. They work diligently to create an environment that promotes respect and dignity for each individual. In addition they are relentless in their work to empower the community and improve the lives of the region.

Pio Decimo has received many accolades, in official recognitions and community victories. Yet the success of Pio Decimo is hard to measure, given they touch the lives of so many. From the single working parent struggling to find day care and make ends meet, to the child in tutoring to help make their future even brighter to improving financial literacy of the community and the day to day assistance, the benefits to our community are endless.

In a society where the gap between the have and have-nots is increasing and resources are limited to assist the less fortunate, Pio Decimo continues to provide resources and hope. I congratulate Pio Decimo on its 60 years and look forward to many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT D.
AND MARY ANNE BAILEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 50th wedding anniversary of Robert D. and Mary Anne Bailey. This event took place on July 15, 2006.

Robert D. Bailey is originally from Mystic, Connecticut. His wife, Mary Anne Williamson Bailey, is originally from Clayton, Alabama. The couple met in April of 1956 at the Seale Road Baptist Church in Phoenix City, Alabama. The next month on Mary Anne's birthday, May 26th, Robert asked her to marry him. On June 15, 1956, the couple was united in marriage at Seale Road Baptist Church where they are still members today. Together they raised four children. They have three daughters, one son, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Bailey was also recently selected for the Audie Murphy Award, which is the highest award one can receive from the Society of the Third Infantry Division. He was selected out of over 3,900 applicants and will receive the award at Fort Benning, Georgia on Veterans Day.

I salute this lovely couple on the 50th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

HEDGE FUND STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill H.R. 6079, the "Hedge Fund Study Act." I want to thank both Chairman, OXLEY, and Chairman BAKER for the Financial Services Committee's support for this study and efforts to address the evolving hedge fund industry.

This legislation will require the President's Working Group on Financial Markets to study the growing marketplace and make recommendations regarding hedge fund disclosure. It is a good first step towards determining what type of disclosure hedge funds should provide to regulators and will establish some standards for increased transparency in our financial system that is important for market discipline and investor confidence.

Hedge funds are now a \$1.2 trillion industry and can be high-risk, high stake investments. While usually targeted to wealthy investors, hedge funds are seeing an increase in ties to pension plans and consequently, the financial earnings of millions of Americans. For that purpose, I think it is necessary that regulators explore hedge funds and the potential risks they pose to financial markets and investors.

This study will come at a good time, as there is much recent discussion over the Securities and Exchange Commission's ruling that required hedge fund advisors to register with the SEC and undergo routine inspections. This ruling was rejected by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and thrown out partly because the court called hedge funds notoriously difficult to define. A

contemporary study of the hedge fund industry would allow legislators to better understand risks born by our economic structures. Moreover, it will allow legislators to best protect the American economy from any unnecessary financial risks.

Although the President's Working Group was created originally to address issues related to the 1987 stock market crash, it now serves as a forum through which the participating agencies exchange information on and coordinate regulatory policy regarding U.S. financial markets more generally. The chairman of the Working Group is the Secretary of the Treasury, and the other members are the chairmen of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The United States is a global leader in the financial services industry. For this reason it is important for regulators to contemplate our strong international position during their consideration of hedge fund disclosure. I commend our committee for acknowledging this important issue and the Senate for their recent attention concerning hedge funds. It is essential we understand this rapidly evolving industry and the impact hedge funds have on our national securities markets.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a good bipartisan bill supported by other members of the Financial Services Committee including Chairman LEACH, Chairman FRANK and Representative GARRETT. I am pleased today that we have brought this much needed bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this important and very necessary legislation.

**MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF
2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker; I rise today to oppose H.R. 6166, the Military Commission Act. I do so because I believe that America must maintain its status as a moral leader on the issue of the humane treatment of prisoners. It is important to our success in the war on terrorism, and it is critical to protecting our own soldiers. By lowering our moral standards in how we treat prisoners of war, we encourage other countries to do the same. This is not a good precedent, and we should reject this legislation.

While much debate and discussion concerning H.R. 6166 has revolved around military commissions and the use of secret evidence, this legislation also contains a provision that would strip Federal courts of their authority to review the detentions of almost all terrorism suspects. Specifically, the provision would bar foreigners held overseas from using the Federal trial courts for challenges to detention known as habeas corpus lawsuits. By eliminating this constitutional right, anyone deemed an "unlawful enemy combatant" could be held indefinitely, without recourse.

No one disputes whether or not legislation is needed. To date, not one detainee held has been tried or convicted of a crime. We need a framework to efficiently prosecute and convict those guilty of terrorist acts against the United States. However, this process must

meet certain legal standards for fairness that form the moral basis of our country, which is what our troops are ultimately fighting to protect. Many times during this debate it has been said that since our enemies in this war do not respect any code of conduct, than we do not need to either. I do not agree with this sentiment. America must stand for a higher ideal.

While I believe the war on terror has brought with it the need for specialized rules and procedures, we must not forget the basic notion of due process. We, as Congress, should uphold our obligations under the Geneva Conventions, ensure expedited convictions for terrorists, and protect our service men and women, and I do not believe this legislation meets these goals.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this legislation and ask my colleagues to do the same.

IN MEMORY OF CONSERVATION-
ISTS TRAGICALLY KILLED IN
NEPAL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mingma Norbu Sherpa and Matthew Preece, two outstanding conservationists at World Wildlife Fund, WWF, in the United States, and others who were killed in a tragic helicopter crash in Nepal on Saturday, September 23. The accident claimed 24 lives, including other WWF conservation leaders and senior government officials from the United States, United Kingdom, Finland and Nepal and four crew members. Ms. Margaret Alexander and Dr. Bijan Acharya of the USAID mission in Nepal are among the deceased. The cause of the crash is unknown. Bad weather in the area may have been a contributing factor.

The group was returning from a celebration of a conservation success story that took place in the rugged, far-east mountains of Nepal. The Nepali government hosted the event in Ghunsa to turn over conservation stewardship of wildlife and habitats on the slopes of Kanchenjunga—the world's third highest mountain—to a coalition of local communities. The park, which is home to globally endangered species such as the snow leopard, now will be managed by the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council. WWF was instrumental in the decision and will work on its implementation for the next five years. USAID provides funding for the project.

Mingma Sherpa directed WWF's work in the Eastern Himalayas. Born and raised in the foothills of Mt. Everest, Mr. Sherpa represented the best of a new breed of conservationist. As an early pioneer of conservation efforts in his native Nepal, and for more than 15 years at WWF in the United States, Mingma Sherpa dedicated his life to the practice of what he called "conservation with a human face."

A protégé of Sir Edmund Hillary, who mentored him after his father died in a mountaineering accident on Mt. Everest in 1971,

Mingma was the first Sherpa to become chief warden of Mt. Everest National Park. He was also one of the founders of the WWF-funded Annapurna Conservation Area Project—then a new experiment in community-based conservation that has since become a model for conservation around the world.

Carter Roberts, President and CEO of WWF-US said this week, “Mingma Sherpa’s quiet, unassuming modesty made it easy to forget that he helped to point the way for the rest of us to follow. He was a hero to me and to many others in the conservation field. He dedicated his life to the idea people and nature could, and should, co-exist. His death is a tremendous loss.”

Born on October 31, 1955, in the small mountain village of Kunde, Mingma was one of the first students to graduate from the village school system created by Hillary, who had scaled Everest two years earlier. Hillary took an immediate interest in the boy and in 1972, a year after Mingma’s father died, invited him to participate in a school-building project. It was to be a transformative experience—and one that led to a close, life-long friendship with “Sir Ed,” as Hillary was known among the Sherpas.

Attending Lincoln College in Christchurch, New Zealand, on a scholarship received with Hillary’s help, Mingma obtained a B.A. in forestry and park management and returned to Nepal as a junior ranger at Mt. Everest’s Sagarmatha National Park.

Tensions between park management and the sherpas living in the area were running high at the time because of community resentment over what were seen as arbitrary restrictions on tree cutting and other traditional activities. So successful was Mingma in resolving these disputes, through solutions that gave the community incentives to conserve the park, that he was named chief warden six months later.

It turned into one of the earliest experiments in what later would become known as “community-based conservation” and it worked so well that in 1985, after another sojourn abroad to obtain a Masters degree in resource management from the University of Manitoba, Mingma was picked to help create the Annapurna project that would later become the textbook model for community-based conservation.

He joined WWF in 1989, first as director of WWF Nepal’s Himalayan Program and later as chief country representative in Nepal and Bhutan. In 1998, he moved to the Washington, DC headquarters of WWF-US to oversee all of the organization’s conservation work in the Eastern Himalayas.

In “Sir Edmund Hillary and the People of Everest,” author Cynthia Russ Ramsay would later write that, of all of “Hillary’s students”—many of whom went on to become doctors, lawyers, teachers and businessmen—Mingma “more than anyone else embodies the virtues of doing things the Hillary way,” having taken his mentor’s compassionate vision applied it to many “other remote areas of the world.”

Although he received international recognition for his work—the Gorkha Dhaksin Bahu medal from the King of Nepal and the Order of the Golden Ark Award from Prince Bernard of the Netherlands—Mingma was forever self-effacing about his accomplishments, preferring to give credit to others. He could not escape fame in his native Nepal, however, where vil-

lagers would line the streets to applaud and cheer him whenever he returned for a visit.

He is survived by his wife Phurba Sona Sherpa, his daughter Dawa Phuti Sherpa and son Tenzing Norbu Sherpa, all of Falls Church, Virginia.

Mingma was one of seven WWF staff killed in the helicopter crash. Mathew Preece, a very promising young conservation professional from Utah, also died in the accident. Mr. Preece was a new Program Officer at WWF headquarters in Washington. He only joined WWF’s Eastern Himalayas team four months ago and was thrilled to be making his first trip to the region. Matt spent five years working on domestic and international issues for other non-profit organizations and lived in India, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. He obtained graduate degrees in 2004 from Brandeis University in Sustainable International Development and in 1999 from Vanderbilt University in Environmental Science. While in school, Matt helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity in California and spent a month in Washington, DC as an advisor to the National Youth Leadership Forum.

Matthew Preece fit more into his 31 years than most people do in an entire lifetime. He is an inspiration to young people around the world, and our hearts go out to his parents, three sisters, and a brother.

The five other WWF staffers who were tragically killed are: Dr. Jill Bowling, Conservation Director for WWF-UK; Jennifer Headley, WWF-UK’s Coordinator for Nepal/South Asia Program; Dr. Chandra Prasad Gurung, Country Representative for WWF Nepal; Dr. Harka Gurung, Advisor to WWF Nepal; and Yeshi Choden Lama, Senior Program Officer for WWF Nepal.

Several senior Nepali government officials also perished in the crash. They are: Mr. Gopai Rai, Nepal Minister of State Forests and Soil Conservation; Dr. Damodar Parajuli, the Acting Secretary, Ministry of State of Forests and Soil Conservation; Mr. Narayan Poudel, Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation; and Mr. Sharad Rai, Director General of Department of Forests.

On behalf of the 125 members of the International Conservation Caucus, I want to express our deepest sympathies to the families, friends, and colleagues of the conservationists and public servants who were lost to us. They were on a noble mission. All of them will be missed by people who care deeply as I do about protecting wildlife and wild places.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2430, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006. This is a strong, bi-partisan bill that deserves the support of all members.

As many of you know, my district is home to the Lake Ontario shoreline. From its recreational use to its natural beauty, Lake On-

tario directly affects a majority of my constituents.

Areas on Lake Ontario like the Sodus Bay Chimney Bluffs and Irondequoit Bay, to the various trout streams and wetland marshes, all shape the landscape of this unique area. But this diverse landscape and its ecosystem are in need of attention. All the Great Lakes are in need of repair. This legislation allows us to begin the much needed restoration of the Great Lakes.

Unfortunately, I must admit that nearly half of the original wetlands of the Great Lakes have been lost due to adverse threats like non-point source pollution and invasive species. These lost wetlands were the home to the sensitive ecosystem that is the building block of the larger Great Lakes basin. The basin is home to 1/5 of the earth’s fresh water and it commands our attention. This legislation helps get us there.

Lastly, this legislation is the first step in implementing the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration strategy that President Bush commissioned in 2004. Since that time, the findings and recommendations have been used to develop an all encompassing piece of legislation, H.R. 5100, the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act. This bill includes a coordinated effort to clean up sewage treatment plants as well as the polluted waters and toxic waste water left over from the industrial boom of past generations. H.R. 5100 includes funding for permanent barriers to protect Lake Michigan and the basin from the invasive Asian Carp species.

Similar to our Nation’s successful efforts in the Everglades and the Chesapeake Bay, we must do the same for the Great Lakes. Congress must implement H.R. 5100, and the passage of S. 2430 is a critical first step.

Streams, rivers, marshes and wetlands all over the basin are polluted and in dire need of attention. We know that restoration, protection and conservation can restore the Great Lakes much like the Everglades and Chesapeake Bay. The fish and wildlife that call these areas home must be restored to protect the magnificence of the lakes for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Great Swamp Watershed Association, based in Harding Township, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community which I am proud to represent. On November 17, 2006, the Great Swamp Watershed Association will be celebrating 25 years of preserving land and water resources in over forty municipalities throughout New Jersey.

In 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association was formed to protect land and water and encourage good management policies and practices in the 36,000 acres in the watershed. The Association was formed by a group of citizens concerned about the potential development of a jet port where the refuge is currently located. Starting as a small grassroots organization, the Great Swamp Watershed Association has today grown to cover 55

square miles and serves thousands of households in over forty municipalities in New Jersey. Five streams in the watershed form the Passaic River, which provides drinking water for over a million New Jersey residents!

In 2002 the Great Swamp Watershed Association produced "Doing Water Right," a video and instruction manual to demonstrate the benefits and application of "blue-water" technologies in support of proposed state storm water regulations. The Association's programs have received local, regional and national awards.

The Great Swamp Watershed Association has preserved local streams, protected environmentally sensitive land threatened by development, and promoted environmental education for all age groups. The Association also is responsible for land advocacy and water quality testing within the watershed. Most of this work is done by a dedicated and devoted group of volunteers from across the area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Great Swamp Watershed Association on its 25th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF "LET'S ALL PLAY DAY" RESOLUTION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a "Let's All Play Day."

I introduce this bill in support of the goals and ideals of Boundless Playgrounds. I would like to take this opportunity to share these goals and ideals with my colleagues in the House.

An estimated six million children in the United States have some type of chronic condition or disability that makes it hard or impossible for them to fully enjoy traditional playgrounds. Those who work with children with disabilities stress the importance of play in their development. Boundless Playgrounds differ from traditional playgrounds in the sense that these playgrounds, and the equipment within the playgrounds, are accessible to all children. They are barrier-free, inclusive and configured to support children's development. Perhaps most importantly, by encouraging children with and without disabilities to play together, these playgrounds provide a space to celebrate similarities and differences and develop essential life skills. I can think of no better way to combat stereotypes than to expose our children to others with disabilities at a young age.

Currently, there are more than 100 Boundless Playgrounds in twenty-one states, with more in development. In my own district, a Boundless Playground in Providence, Rhode Island provides many Rhode Island children and their family members the ability to interact and play together. I have been amazed and inspired by how the community has come together in support of this park—most notably the contributions of Hasbro, Inc. Such cooperation is a tremendous testament to Rhode Island's commitment to supporting children who struggle to overcome obstacles.

Mr. Speaker, we could all take a lesson from the forethought put into the design of Boundless Playgrounds. In the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other initiatives that have encouraged the inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities, I am proud to recognize Boundless Playgrounds for their dedication to all children and families. I hope my colleagues will join me in the effort to acknowledge these extraordinary playgrounds by cosponsoring this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was recorded as having missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act. I was present during the vote and intended to support this measure; however, my vote was not recorded.

I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on this measure.

THANKS TO SUBHASRI RAMANATHAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to give thanks to Sue Ramanathan, Democratic deputy staff director and chief counsel of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security.

Sue was one of the original staff members of the Select Committee on Homeland Security from the 108th Congress, and has been a dedicated public servant whose leadership on border security and immigration issues has helped us proficiently tackle those hard issues and whose counsel has been a vital element of our homeland security efforts.

Sue began her tenure on Capitol Hill as a legislative fellow for Senator JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN and as a member of the Washington, DC, staff of the American Bar Association before joining my colleague ZOE LOFGREN as her senior policy advisor and counsel. While working for Congresswoman LOFGREN, Sue earned an LL.M in international and comparative law from Georgetown University Law Center. It was on behalf of Congresswoman LOFGREN that Sue was able to contribute to the conversation surrounding our Nation's immigration policies, the same policies that she and her family were first subject to as immigrants to our great Nation. The Congresswoman joins me in commending Sue today, as demonstrated by her comments to follow.

She left the Hill for a brief period to work on a Presidential campaign, before returning in 2004 to join the Select Committee of Homeland Security under Ranking Member Jim Turner of Texas. At the beginning of this Congress, when I became ranking member, I named Sue chief counsel and deputy staff director. In addition to helping develop the legislative and oversight activities of the Demo-

cratic Committee staff, Sue also led our immigration and border security team efforts. In this capacity, Sue played a critical role in implementing the committee's legislative agenda.

Mr. Speaker, this was no small task.

One particular debate that I will not soon forget pertained to the House's consideration of comprehensive border security legislation this past year. Committee staff spent countless sleepless nights and early mornings working on behalf of the American people to mitigate the risk posed by this Nation's porous borders. Sue coordinated the committee's floor time on H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. In particular, she worked closely with my colleague SILVESTRE REYES on the Democratic motion to recommit. Mr. REYES had this to say about Sue, "as a member of Congress representing a district on the U.S.-Mexico border, my staff and I had the pleasure of working with Sue Ramanathan on several pieces of homeland security legislation in recent years. In every instance, I was impressed by her knowledge, professionalism, and dedication. Though we are sorry to see her leave the staff of the Homeland Security Committee, we are fortunate that she will continue to work on the many homeland security issues facing our country in her new position. We wish her all the best."

In addition, she was one of the committee's key staffers on the committee's first two authorization bills, as well as on legislation to correct and restructure the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Sue's expertise and dedication will be deeply missed in the House. I am comforted, however, by the fact that Sue's insight and expertise will not be lost to the Members of this House. Unlike so many others who turn in their congressional ID cards for large paychecks in the private sector, Sue has maintained her commitment to public service. Thankfully, she will remain a public servant, dedicating this new chapter in her career in the Homeland Security and Justice Division at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO, and helping to ensure Congress's critical check and balance on the executive branch of Government. Mr. Speaker, I wish Sue, the committee's favorite Cherry Hill native and Rutgers graduate, the best in her new venture. I look forward to seeing great things from Sue and her new family at GAO as they, undoubtedly, work to ensure that America gets homeland security right once and for all.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AZERBAIJAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 2006 Azerbaijan will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of its re-independence. As members of Congress recognize this important occasion, I think it is essential to point out the remarkable strength, determination and ingenuity of Azerbaijanis who have taken difficult steps to transform their country over the last 15 years.

One of the most significant developments contributing to Azerbaijan's transformation is

its ever-evolving relationship with the United States. While U.S.-Azerbaijani relations date back to Azerbaijan's independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, our relations were elevated to the level of strategic partnership after September 11, 2001. Given the myriad of global challenges facing the United States, Azerbaijan, which is geostrategically located, has become an invaluable ally of America and a partner in the war against terrorism.

The US-Azerbaijani relationship is mutually beneficial and multifaceted, particularly as it relates to defense and security cooperation. Azerbaijan was the first Muslim majority nation to send troops to Iraq, and Azerbaijani soldiers currently serve shoulder-to-shoulder with American forces in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Azerbaijan is also working with the U.S. multilaterally, within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) to fight against terrorism, prevent trans-national and cross-border crimes, and to secure borders, thus contributing to international counter-terrorism and non-proliferation efforts.

One of Azerbaijan's main foreign policy priorities, which I fully support, is its integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic political, security and economic institutions, a journey that began with the signing of the NATO's Partnership for Peace Framework document in 1994. Now Azerbaijan is completing the implementation process of NATO's Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) and actively participates in Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism (PAP-T). The country enjoys full membership in OSCE and Council of Europe. Azerbaijan also closely cooperates with the European Union (EU) and is looking to successfully move forward on the EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan and its New Neighborhood initiatives.

Azerbaijan is aggressively moving to diversify its economy to achieve sustainable growth and meet the social and development needs of its population. A key partner in developing and transporting Caspian Sea resources to the West, Azerbaijan encourages western and especially American investments and involvement in the region.

Since 1991, Azerbaijan has taken steps to change its legal and legislative structure to foster a democratic society based on rule of law, respect for political and civil rights. While Azerbaijan has made progress, I stand with the Bush administration in urging President Ilham Aliyev's government to take additional steps to expand political pluralism, strengthen democratic institutions and continue to reform its electoral system. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I believe that further democratic progress would only serve to strengthen this partnership and the ties that have been forged over the past 15 years.

Once again, I want to congratulate the people and government of Azerbaijan on this historic milestone and look forward to working with President Aliyev and my counterparts in Baku to strengthen the relationship between our two nations.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support House Resolution 745. This resolution will help to increase awareness about a horrible disease: pancreatic cancer.

Few Americans may understand that pancreatic cancer is a horrific killer. This year alone, over 33,000 people will be diagnosed with this disease. Because there are no early detection tools for this cancer, 99 percent of those diagnosed will lose their lives.

Many Americans are not aware that pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all cancers; most patients only survive three to six months after diagnosis. This is why it is a moral imperative for Congress to work to increase awareness of this deadly cancer.

Currently, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (known as "PanCAN") is the only national advocacy organization available for pancreatic cancer patients and their families and friends. I became aware of PanCAN through a constituent of mine, Bob Hammen, who lost his wife to this terrible disease. PanCAN provides patient support and professional education about this disease, while coordinating advocacy programs to focus national attention on finding a cure for pancreatic cancer.

PanCAN regards each November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. With the passage of H. Res. 745, Congress will be supporting PanCAN's efforts to raise awareness about pancreatic cancer so that scientific advancements can lead to some early detection programs and effective treatments.

Mr. Speaker, because all of our fellow citizens have family, friends and neighbors who are regrettably vulnerable to this dreaded disease, I urge support from my distinguished colleagues for this resolution here today.

ESTER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member MILLER for the opportunity to speak on this important piece of legislation. I also want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman HEATHER WILSON, for her leadership on this important issue.

This bill amends the Native American Programs Act to allow the Administration for Native Americans under the Dept. of Health and Human Services to award grants to strengthen Native American language immersion programs.

This measure is vital to preserving the diminishing Native languages in tribes across the nation, including many in my district. As an original cosponsor on this measure, I am

thankful for the bipartisan effort to preserve the languages of those people who hold the original history of our country.

In my own district, the Navajo people have a very successful language immersion program. In 2001, the Navajo Language Immersion School at the Window Rock Unified School District was established by Dr. Deborah Dennison. At the first grade level, students are instructed in the Navajo Language 90% of the time, and the remaining 10% of their lessons are in English. With each year, these Navajo students are immersed in English more and more until there is an equal balance of language instruction.

The students in this successful program cover academic content areas in both Navajo and English and the results have been astounding. These students perform better on the standardized tests than students in "regular" classrooms. Moreover, since it was established, the Navajo Language Immersion School has consistently met No Child Left Behind's designation of "Annual Yearly Progress" and they have also met "Arizona Learns" standards. I hope this kind of excellence in learning and education can be duplicated throughout Indian Country.

While some may worry that this program would decrease the importance of the English language in the United States, we must remember the contributions that Native Americans who speak their Native language have made to our country. During World Wars I and II, Native American languages, including the Navajo language, played a vital role in protecting our nation. Navajo people and other Native Americans were employed as "Code Talkers" during the wars, and implemented a code that our enemies could not break. Thus it was through their language that we overcame our enemies.

U.S. English, an organization dedicated to promoting English as the official language of the United States, has stated that, "... official English legislation proposed by U.S. ENGLISH does not prevent the use of Native American languages ... In education, U.S. ENGLISH supports the right of tribal governments and autonomous Native American communities to make their native languages the primary language of instruction in their schools."

Therefore, it is paramount that we pass this legislation. As it helps us protect not only an essential part of Native American history but also helps us safeguard a larger part of United States character and culture for future generations to learn their Native language.

A wise friend once shared with me that "To take away a people's language is to begin to conquer them." Let us join together to support and preserve the first American's Native languages.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BRUCE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of this House the end of an era in the Kentucky General Assembly. In January, 2007, the longest serving member of the Kentucky General Assembly, Representative

James Bruce will retire after having 42 years in the Kentucky House of Representatives.

I have known Representative Bruce for most of my life, and he taught me the ropes of government and politics early on when I served with him for one term in the Kentucky House from 1974–1975. Upon arriving in Frankfort, I learned quickly that Representative Bruce was one of the most effective legislators in Kentucky. He had the respect and admiration of his colleagues both Democrat and Republican, and when he told you something you could count on it. Many Governors have relied on Representative Bruce to get their agendas through the legislature.

Back home in the 9th District, he was legendary as someone who seldom if ever had an opponent during an election year, and who was faithful in delivering to his district. Much of the progress in agriculture, infrastructure, and economic development in Representative Bruce's district is in large part attributable to his skill, seniority, and effectiveness in Frankfort. I am confident that if you asked Representative Bruce about his success he would attribute it to his lovely wife Janie who has been at his side for nearly every trip between Hopkinsville and Frankfort and whom many have said that with Jim and Janie we had two for one.

Mr. Speaker, 2007 will mark the end of an era in the Kentucky General Assembly and the 9th House District will miss the presence of Representative James E. Bruce. He leaves large shoes behind to fill.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of Redlands on the centennial of its founding. From its first graduating class of three students to the present-day student body of 4,100, this school has developed a reputation as a top-quality small university.

At the turn of the last century, Redlands and the surrounding communities were home to the booming navel orange industry. The lure of agricultural wealth and the beautiful climate of the San Bernardino Valley attracted hundreds of sophisticated families from the East Coast and Midwest. Many of these "colonists" brought a tradition of fostering civic good works to their new home, and by the early 1900s they were seeking a new college to serve the community.

City residents subscribed more than \$50,000 and convinced the American Baptists to locate a new university in Redlands rather than Los Angeles. Chartered in 1907, the university admitted its first students in 1909 and graduated its first class—of three students—in 1910. It now boasts more than 45,000 alumni from around the world. More than 35 percent of its students are from historically under-represented groups.

The University of Redlands today has more than 200 professors teaching in 46 majors and programs, and an additional 200 adjunct fac-

ulty providing expertise to its School of Business and School of Education. Graduate programs include music, communicative disorders and geographic information systems, and a Doctorate of Leadership for Educational Justice. The university has been ranked among the top liberal-arts colleges in the West in a number of surveys.

I am proud to say that the relationship between the university and the community remains strong. The university was one of the first educational institutions in the country to require community service as a condition of graduation. Today, over 80,000 community service hours are provided annually by students to local, regional, national and international agencies and organizations. The innovative School of Education has prepared thousands of new teachers to serve our youth.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Redlands will soon begin a year-long celebration of its centennial, which will be highlighted by the entry of a university float in the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade, and will continue with a series of events commemorating 100 years of excellence and community involvement. Please join me in congratulating the trustees, faculty, staff and students on their achievement, and wish them well in their next 100 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AUDIT ACT OF 2006

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Intelligence Community Audit Act of 2006.

Representative ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA) has joined me in introducing this important measure. I am also pleased to report that a companion bill will be introduced in the Senate by DANIEL K. AKAKA (D-HI), FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ).

This bill, the Intelligence Community Audit Act of 2006, reaffirms the authority of the Comptroller General of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct for Congress audits and evaluations of the intelligence community—including audits and evaluations pertaining to financial transactions, programs, and information sharing and other activities. It also prescribes the security procedures that GAO must follow in conducting audits for congressional intelligence oversight committees of intelligence sources and methods, or covert actions.

There is a pressing need for this legislation. With the passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the federal government now encompasses 19 distinct components that have intelligence responsibilities. Ensuring that these components—which range from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Treasury—are cooperating and performing their missions effectively is critical to our national security and winning the war on terrorism.

But it is not just federal coordination and cooperation which is at issue. There is also a pressing need for state and local law enforce-

ment officials to get the information they need to protect our constituents. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In a recent survey, the National Governor's Association noted that fully 70 percent of state homeland security directors are dissatisfied with the specificity of homeland security information they receive from federal sources, and the fully 55 percent who are disappointed with its actionable quality. Our state law enforcement officials need information to protect our constituents.

And we in Congress need information to conduct our oversight functions. The availability of information to appropriate congressional committees is a paramount concern for this nation's system of checks and balances. The ability of the GAO to conduct thorough and nonpartisan reviews is well known. But what is not well known is the hurdles they sometimes face in conducting oversight. Earlier this year, shortly after GAO released a report on federal government policies relating to the sharing of terrorism-related and sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information (GAO-06-385). Specifically, the DNI declined to comment on a draft version of the report because it considered GAO's work in this non-sensitive area a "review of intelligence activities" that was "beyond GAO's purview." But this bill makes it clear that the DNI cannot evade Congressional oversight by lumping the sharing of unclassified information and other non-sensitive matters together with the kinds of intelligence activities that understandably must be held to a stricter standard.

This bill makes it clear that Congress has a real and continuing interest in reviews of the basic functions of the intelligence community, such as sharing of information with state and local law enforcement officials and transportation security. The events of 911 made it clear that systemic weaknesses in these areas can cost lives.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this bill.

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF LEBANON AND THE LEBANESE PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the amended version of H. Res. 1017, introduced by my colleague TOM LANTOS, which affirms support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

Mr. Speaker, what this resolution now does is urge the Government of Lebanon to request assistance from the international community for military and other forms of support in securing their border with Syria, in order to end the flow of weapons to Hezbollah.

I want to thank Chairman HYDE for his instrumental role in negotiating language that addresses these concerns and enables the Government of Lebanon to engage and work closely with the international community so as to prevent another crisis in the region.

This resolution recognizes the courageous efforts made by many Lebanese in their independent uprising on March 14, 2005 and commends the democratically elected Government of Lebanon for their ongoing efforts to restore

sovereignty and security throughout all its territory.

Despite the remarkable achievements of the so-called Cedar Revolution, the Government of Lebanon continues to experience challenges to its rule. Targeted killings of public figures and the recent conflict between Hezbollah and Israel illustrate the dangers to Lebanon's stability. Furthermore, the increasing polarization and divide of the country's confessional communities demonstrates the need for a serious national dialogue that will deal with Lebanon's domestic struggles.

The provocative unilateral actions implemented by Hezbollah this past summer is evidence of the destructive influences Syria and Iran continue to play in Lebanon. The people of Lebanon and their government did not have any say in the destruction and heartbreak that was imposed upon their nation, yet they must be the ones to pay the price. In a clear indication that Hezbollah is willing to use its weapons internally, unless the current form of government is changed, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said he would only consider giving up its weapons when a strong, capable and just state was in place. This would strongly undermine Lebanon's democratic structures and could potentially lead to civil war and instability in the whole region.

Lebanon seeks to build itself up once again from beneath the ashes of war and destruction. In the absence of a regional peace, this may very well be the last opportunity to save Lebanon from a failed state scenario.

The United States has a vital interest in ensuring the security of a liberal democratic regime. It is important that United States assistance to Lebanon play a strategic role in strengthening Lebanon's central governing institutions that will ultimately lead to an empowered government that is able to meet the demands of all its citizens and comply with its international commitments and the major themes in this resolution.

In addition, to security assistance that enables the Lebanese Armed Forces to secure its borders, assistance needs to be targeted toward the passage of a new electoral law and increasing reforms in the Ministry of Justice. The electoral commission has submitted their review and now the Lebanese parliament needs to respond. A more representative electoral law will defy the modes of traditional sectarian leadership in Lebanon that have led to deadlock and stalemate.

These steps are vital to restoring and maintaining Lebanon's sovereignty and security by reducing the influence of Iran and Syria over Hezbollah and contributing to a broader representation of all Lebanese.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time and look forward to the passage of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE NELSON TENNIS FOUNDATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the Nelson Tennis Foundation and support the eighth annual Nel-

son Scholarship Tennis Classic which will be held in Georgetown, Texas, on October 20–22, 2006. This nonprofit foundation, named in honor of Jane and Charles “Coach” Nelson was established to support the game of tennis in the community of Georgetown, Texas. Charles and Jane exemplify a love for the game of tennis and a dedication to education. Combining these two passions, the Nelson Foundation has helped eligible high school seniors in the Georgetown Independent School District pursue their dreams for a college education. Since 1999, the Nelson Foundation has been able to award scholarships to 17 deserving student athletes through the proceeds from the tennis classic.

The Nelsons are retired educators with over 35 years of teaching and coaching experience in public schools. Both Charles and Jane began playing the game of tennis as teenagers in Huntsville, Texas. After several years of teaching and coaching in both Texas and New York, the Nelsons returned home to central Texas where Charles took over as head tennis coach at Round Rock High School for 4 years. This was followed by 3 years as the head tennis coach at Westwood High School in Round Rock and 7 years working with the Southwestern University tennis program. Both Jane and Charles are active in playing tournament tennis and remain outstanding contributors to their community. Through the years, they have been teammates, tennis partners, and friends to so many in the Georgetown and Williamson County area.

The Nelsons have been members of the Berry Creek Racquet Club in Georgetown where they have been involved in the club's Pro-Am Annual Tennis Tournaments. After several years, this tournament was renamed the Nelson Tennis Scholarship Classic for which the Nelson Tennis Foundation was established.

The Nelson Foundation embodies community, fellowship, and a love for the game of tennis. All of these are at the heart of Charles and Jane Nelson and typify the generosity and character of Georgetown, Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEO DIEHL

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, it's been said that the world goes on because a few people in every generation believe in it utterly, accept it unquestionably, underwrite it with their lives. Leo Diehl was one such man.

A community is gathering together in Harwich today to celebrate Leo's remarkable life that took him from Beacon Hill to the Halls of Congress. Those who remember him recall his wit, tenacity, dignity, compassion, irascibility, loyalty, and most importantly, his lust for life.

Diagnosed with polio at the age of 6, Leo never let his infirmity get in the way of living. Never one for sitting on the sidelines, he was determined to do all the things the other kids in Charlestown were doing. He was a formidable athlete—pitching 27 innings in a sandlot baseball game or playing goalie for the neighborhood hockey team. He refused confinement in a wheelchair and the pity of others.

In later life, he would say the experience of losing his legs and learning to use crutches to walk gave him the grace to understand the struggles that so many poor and working-class families endure on a daily basis. He reminded people that his brain, eyes, ears and, most importantly, his mouth still worked. Leo used them all to right wrongs where he saw them and to speak up, even stand-up, for those who didn't have a voice, who weren't as strong or as brave as he was.

Elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the same year as Tip O'Neill, the two men became fast friends and allies. Later, when Leo would lose his seat, he would begin a storied career in the Commonwealth's tax department, eventually rising to tax commissioner.

Then, the call came. Newly elected Majority Whip, and his old friend, Tip O'Neill, wanted him to come to Washington, DC. He needed a good right-hand, a conscience and a confidant. The rest, they say, is history.

He dined with kings and queens, prime ministers and cardinals, but never forgot his working class roots. He was a constant presence in this House; a role-model of character and integrity for Members and staff alike. Many called him the “watch-dog”; lots of other people called him other things—usually behind his back. Regardless, at the end of the day, everyone had the greatest respect for Leo—a man who served this institution well and faithfully.

In later years, he would raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity with his good friend and with the help of those he inspired.

St. Luke reminds us that to those to whom much is given, much is required—and should be expected. In the case of Leo Diehl, he gave as good as he got. Now he's in a place, joined with his wife Grace, family and friends; made whole and perfect in His sight—and most likely still helping his friend, his Speak-ah, Tom make the streets of heaven a better place.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need to protect and preserve Native American languages. In my state of Minnesota, it is becoming more difficult to find elders to teach the Ojibwe language—the fourth most spoken Native language in North America.

The facts cannot be ignored—decades of federal restrictions on the instruction and use of Native languages led to their deliberate decline.

Despite treaties and laws and executive orders that call for the preservation and incorporation of Native language and culture in education—we are living at a time when Native American languages and culture are being eroded.

Title VII—which exists to ensure Native children receive Native language and culture instruction—has been reduced or reallocated to

other functions of the No Child Left Behind law—despite significant research proving that Native children do better in all subjects when taught through the use of Native languages and culture.

Schools have felt pressure from the Bush administration to instead spend resources for Native language and culture on the goals of Bush's No Child Left Behind law. Title VII resources must be focused on Title VII goals—not siphoned off to support other goals of the Bush administration—especially at the expense of Native American children.

Native children have the right to the education they are promised—that means the highest quality education—including instruction in their language.

As a Nation, we must reaffirm our commitment to preserve, to honor, and to teach the living traditions, cultures, and languages of the First Americans who have and continue to contribute to the strength of our Nation as teachers, community leaders, business owners, artists, elected officials, and neighbors—and the brave men and women who have fought in our armed services.

Native Americans have identified the recovery and preservation of their languages as one of their highest priorities. As a country, we have a moral obligation to live up to our commitments to the First Americans.

It is my hope that Congress will do what is right—and recommit our Nation's resources to strengthen Native American languages for all Native people across the entire country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 178 which occurred on May 22, 2006, regarding H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 RETIREES OF THE STERLING HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 29, 2006, the Sterling Heights' Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance, honoring their 2006 retirees. This yearly event honors Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizes their commendable contributions to the city. I am pleased to be associated with this fine organization and to call many of them my friends.

I rise today to pay tribute to the careers of four retiring firefighters.

Kenneth Hall was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on January 21, 1980. In November of that year, he received his Certificate of Completion for the Extrication and Rescue Training Program. On May 25, 2000, he was presented with the certificate of Spe-

cial U.S. Senate Recognition to commemorate his 20 years of service. In August of 2002 he added to his list of accomplishments by becoming a HazMat Team Member. Ken has been promoted two times in his career: Lieutenant on March 31, 1995, and Captain on September 17, 2001. He retired on January 30 of this year after 26 years of dedicated service.

Tom Lindeman was appointed as a Sterling Heights Firefighter on July 2, 1981. As part of his service, he counseled and taught young aspiring firefighters in the department's Explorer's Program. In 1989 he received a Certificate of Appreciation from Utica Community Schools for his efforts in the community. In 2001 he received an associate's degree in Fire Science. During his career, Tom was promoted four times: FEO on April 20, 1992; Lieutenant on January 4, 1996; Training Instructor on August 22, 1996, and Chief of Training on January 11, 2003. He was honored by his peers, being named Firefighter of the Year twice, in 1999 and in 2004. Tom retired last month on August 19, after 25 years of dedicated service.

Dave Poterek was appointed as a Sterling Heights Firefighter on May 21, 1979 after attending Western Michigan University. On May 4, 1981, he received a Police Department Citizen Citation for resuscitating a drowning victim. In 1984 he earned his Associates Degree in Nursing, and in 2004 he obtained his EMS Instructor Coordinator certificate. During his career he was promoted several times: Firefighter-ALS (Advanced Life Support) on April 18, 1992; Fire Lieutenant-ALS on July 5, 1994; Captain in 1996, and Battalion Chief on October 31, 2003. He retired on June 19 of this year, after 27 years of dedicated service.

William Riddock was appointed to the position of Probationary Firefighter with the Sterling Heights Fire Department on October 12, 1981. In 1989 he received the Meritorious Unit Citation for assistance at a house fire, rescuing a family from their balcony. He was a member of the Uniform Committee and participated in numerous of the department's Open Houses. In addition to receiving numerous Perfect Attendance Awards throughout his career, Captain Riddock was promoted twice: Lieutenant on July 22, 1996, and Captain on January 11, 2003. Captain Riddock is retiring next month on October 19, after 25 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these four heroes, who have dedicated themselves to the community with valor, commitment and honor.

TRIBUTE TO MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today we congratulate the Main Street Baptist Church in Point Pleasant, WV. On October 28, 2006, the Main Street Baptist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

This church has helped change the lives of many in the Point Pleasant area and in the state. This is a wonderful time for the congregants of Main Street Baptist Church to

celebrate with loved ones and take time to reflect on the many accomplishments and improvements this church has made in the community.

I want to thank Main Street Baptist Church for their service to the community of Point Pleasant and all of their contributions to our great state. May your next 100 years be just as fruitful.

HONORING THE LUVERNIA FULLER FOUNDATION AND RECOGNIZING MAY 18TH, 2007 AS "ANSWER MY PRAYER" DAY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Luvernia Fuller Foundation for the invaluable support it provides to cancer patients. In doing so, I join two local governments in the 13th District of Illinois in recognizing the Luvernia Fuller Foundation for its generosity. Both the Village of Romeoville and the City of Joliet in my district have declared May 18, 2007, Luvernia Fuller Foundation "Answer My Prayer" day.

This not-for-profit organization was established on January 20, 2004 by the son of cancer patient, Luvernia Fuller. Unfortunately, like too many people stricken with cancer, Luvernia Fuller lost her battle. Inspired by his mother, Brian Fuller established the Foundation to provide emotional and monetary assistance to cancer patients and their families.

"Answer My Prayer" day was created to raise awareness and support for cancer patients. The Luvernia Fuller Foundation's goal of "Answer My Prayer" day is not only to raise money to help provide necessary medical treatment and medicine for cancer patients, but also to educate the public about cancer and to celebrate the dignity of cancer patients.

As representative of the 13th District of Illinois, I am extremely pleased that such a fine foundation is based in my district and is providing life-saving assistance to the people of Illinois. I wish the Luvernia Fuller Foundation continued success in its mission and hope that we all set aside May 18th as "Answer My Prayer" day to help and remember those who have been or are currently afflicted with cancer.

IN MEMORY OF FORT WORTH FIRE CHIEF CHARLES GAINES

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most dedicated public servants of District 12 and the Fort Worth community that I represent, Fort Worth Fire Chief Charles Gaines. On September 23, 2006, Fire Chief Gaines died at his home at the age of 49. Through hard work and commitment in his chosen profession, Chief Gaines was known nationally as an outstanding fire chief.

While Chief Gaines' tenure in Fort Worth was a short four years, his impact on the community, on the men and women of the Fort

Worth Fire Department and on his Fort Worth friends was enormous. Chief Gaines undertook with vigor the task of implementing a 4-man company staffing plan for the Fort Worth Fire Department to ensure that citizens enjoyed the best fire protection possible, while also undertaking a review of the Fire Department to abolish inefficient practices.

Chief Gaines was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and graduated from Oklahoma City Northwest Classen High School before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1975 where he entered the Air Force fire protection services as a crash rescue firefighter. He was stationed at various Air Force bases and rose to the rank of assistant fire chief when he was honorably discharged in 1980. Chief Gaines joined the Oklahoma City Fire Department and became a firefighter in 1981 where he continued as a frontline firefighter and supervisor until 1985 when he became a fire services instructor. Beginning in 1990, Chief Gaines served the Oklahoma City community in various capacities as deputy chief, including deputy chief for personnel, training and safety operations. When the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building occurred in 1995, Chief Gaines was one of the first rescuers to reach the scene and served as the operations safety officer during the first 36 hours after the bombing, providing critical leadership that ensured the safety of firefighters and others who had rushed to the rescue of the victims of the bombing.

Chief Gaines was named Fort Worth fire chief in 2002 in a nationwide search and had the distinction of being the city's first African American fire chief. His fellow firefighters say his analytical ability, dedication to safety and determination made him "a consummate professional." Nothing signifies his dedication and hard work more than his personal development efforts. While serving as a full time firefighter, Chief Gaines earned a Southern Nazarene University Bachelor of Science degree, an Oklahoma City University Masters of Business Administration degree and graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Officers Program.

At the same time, Chief Gaines was fiercely dedicated to his family and friends, always there with a bright smile and wit.

Chief Gaines' outstanding professional abilities have indeed made Fort Worth a better place in which to live and work. It is with humility that I honor Fort Worth Fire Chief Charles Gaines as a great American who used his skills and talents wisely. Chief Gaines will be missed but not forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO BYRON NELSON—
AMERICAN GOLFER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, ask 100 people on the street who is the best golfer in history, I bet a majority of them would reply "Tiger Woods." Ask that same question to 100 professional golfers, and their answer would be "Byron Nelson."

Byron Nelson was born February 4, 1912 in Waxahachie, Texas. He did not grow up with

the ambition to ever be a professional golfer; he just enjoyed playing it in his spare time. The onslaught of the Great Depression, and his subsequent unemployment, led Nelson to professionally pursue golf in 1932.

Known to golfers as the game's "Ultimate Gentleman," Nelson impressed audiences and fellow players alike with his good nature, his graceful swing, and his ability to win. In 1937, Nelson won The Masters, his first major tournament win. He would go on to win four more major tournaments over the years: the 1939 U.S. Open, the 1940 and 1945 PGA Championship, and the 1942 Masters. The accomplishment that he is the most well known for, however, did not come until 1945—13 years after he turned professional.

As America was winning World War II, Byron Nelson was winning golf tournaments. In 1945, Nelson did the unimaginable, winning 11 consecutive golf tournaments. By the end of 1945, Nelson had won a record 18 total tournaments—a record that still remains intact today. The closest anyone has come to challenging Nelson's record was Tiger Woods, who impressively won 6 consecutive tournaments in 2001; however, failed to catch the record by five tournaments. His last professional tour ended in 1946, when at the age of 34, he decided to live the simple life of a rancher.

Although Nelson had retired, his love and dedication to the game continued. For years later, he was a frequent ceremonial starter at The Masters tournament. Nelson was also always amazed at how the game of golf was evolving, from the "rising new stars" to the change in club material to the amounts of money involved. In a 1997 interview, Nelson stated, "I did not even dream in my wildest imagination there would be as much money. . . . I only won \$182,000 in my whole life." Mr. Speaker, nowadays winning a professional tournament yields millions of dollars, so one can understand Nelson's amazement at the winnings now.

Byron Nelson was the recipient of the 1974 Bob Jones Award for distinguished sportsmanship in golf. It is considered the highest honor awarded by the U.S. Golf Association. He has also been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, and is the only professional golfer to have a stop on the PGA tour named after him—EDS Bryon Nelson Championship played in Dallas, Texas.

Golf was not the only passion in Nelson's life. He was also a devout Christian, who gave his time, energy, and money to Abilene Christian University (ACU)—my alma mater. Nelson had a long family history with ACU. In his family lineage were the fourth and seventh Presidents of the University. Nelson's brother is currently a professor at ACU and his sister is an alumna.

Nelson was a member of the University's Board of Trustees and National Development Council. In 1984 Nelson and his wife of 50 years, Louise, established the Byron and Louise Nelson Golf Endowment, to raise funds for ACU. A dinner was held in his honor and the results netted enough funding to permanently institute the men's golf program at ACU. Nelson also continued to lend not only his name, but his person, each year to ACU's Byron Nelson Golf Tournament. His dedication and devotion to ACU allowed the men's golf program

to flourish, winning eight Lone Star Conference golf championships and one NCAA Division II championships.

For 94 years, Bryon Nelson was a man among men, always a gentleman, always a leader, always a Christian. On Tuesday, September 26, this great man passed away at his home in Roanoke, Texas. Bryon Nelson is not only mourned throughout the professional golf community, but throughout Abilene Christian University, where he gave so much of himself and asked for nothing in return. So his life will be remembered by all, as a great person and a great golfer.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
MR. C. LARRY RHODES TO OUR
TROOPS

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the personal dedication of one of my constituents from Southern Indiana, Mr. Larry Rhodes, to our troops in the field, and their families here at home. Mr. Rhodes, a Vietnam Veteran, recognized the need for his community to step in and volunteer their time, energy, and resources to the families of our troops preparing to deploy to Iraq. Rather than wait for an opportunity to do his part, Mr. Rhodes took the initiative and formed the support organization "Operation: Support on the Homefront."

In the Summer of 2005, Mr. Rhodes began holding events for families of soldiers in the National Guards 163rd Field Artillery unit, and the Army Reserves 406th Corps Support Battalion, both of which have units in my congressional district—the 8th District of Indiana.

Mr. Rhodes has organized numerous fundraising events, including concerts, dinners, silent auctions, and of course a joyous Christmas party for the families, where a huge dinner was served and all of the children received donated gifts. In addition to his fundraising efforts, Mr. Rhodes has worked with the business community in Evansville and surrounding communities to encourage them to provide discounted products and services to the families of the deployed soldiers.

This August, after months of negotiating with the U.S. government, Mr. Rhodes and his producer Steve Olglesby, were given permission to travel to Iraq to spend time with troops from the 163rd and 406th, conduct interviews, and film a short documentary of their experiences in Iraq. Underscoring the hazardous nature of this trip, the day Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Olglesby left Al Diwaniyah, the base where they were staying came under mortar attack. Luckily, no one was injured.

This dedication to our troops, commitment to our country, and selfless sacrifice deserves the praise and recognition of a grateful community and country. I commend Mr. Larry Rhodes for his personal service to his country and his ongoing efforts to support our men and women in uniform that proudly serve today.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support of H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act of 2006. This measure is vital in giving the President the resources he needs to bring terrorists and enemy combatants to justice. During these uncertain times of conflict and war, the United States requires established procedures to try captured terrorists and protect our troops. The justice system and rules of evidence that apply to enemies of war should be narrowly tailored within the legal framework to effectively prosecute terrorists. I fully support the compromise negotiated between the House, Senate, and Bush Administration on this important legislation. Though I was not able to cast my vote in favor of H.R. 6166 on September 27, 2006, I would like to go on record as being in full support of the Military Commissions Act of 2006.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on September 7, 2006, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall 431 and "yea" on Rollcall 433 as pertaining to my support for the Horse Slaughter Prohibition Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

HONORING LT. COL. CURT EDWARD
STOVER ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE U.S. ARMY**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lt. Col. Curt Edward Stover, a soldier who has served his country with honor and distinction. Lt. Col. Stover is retiring this week following 22 years in the United States military.

First commissioned in the U.S. Army July 6, 1984, Lt. Colonel Curt Edward Stover received his B.S. degree from Texas A&M University. Upon his entry into the Army, he was commissioned Air Defense Artillery.

Traveling around the world during his 22 years of dedicated service, Lt. Col. Stover has served in the Korean demilitarized zone, as well as two tours in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. One of the first soldiers to transfer into the Space Operations Command after it was created, Lt. Col. Stover is Airborne and Air Assault qualified. He has also attended Command General Staff College and held two joint assignments with the Air Force.

During his career, Lt. Col. Stover was a Platoon leader, a Motor officer, a Battalion S-4,

a Task Force S-4, a Patriot Battery Commander, a Squad Tactical Officer USMA, a Patriot Battalion Executive Officer, and on the Architecture Branch Chief Space Command.

Retiring with numerous decorations for his years of service, Lt. Col. Stover has earned the Defense Meritorious Service medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Korean Defense Service Medal. It is clear that during his decades in the armed forces that he has served with both honor and distinction.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Lt. Col. Stover that help make our military the finest fighting force in the world. This Congress congratulates Lt. Col. Stover on his retirement and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
KEVIN L. ZEIGLER**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in tribute to Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Zeigler of Braymer, Missouri. Sgt. Zeigler made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on August 12, 2006. As a tribute to his courage, valor, and patriotism, I would like to read a very moving poem that Sgt. Zeigler's uncle, G. Lamar Wilkie, Chief Petty Officer, United States Navy (Retired), wrote for his fallen nephew.

FINAL TRIP HOME

Staff Sergeant Kevin Zeigler
Friend of Liberty
Hero of an oppressed people Defender of faith
in humanity
Who helped liberate a nation
He comes back a hero
Having given his life for
The noblest cause of all
Not of sickness or meek old age
But in defense of freedom
No more torture chambers
Or professional rape rooms
No poisoned villagers
Filling mass graves
At the hands of their own dictator
Brutally taken from us
By vicious cowards
Who attack from shadows and
Dare not show their faces
They live to die for death's sake
But the barbarians
Though they claim victory
With fear and destruction
Suffer terrible loss within
A defeat of the heart
Let the bells of liberty
Toll the passing of a champion
His race is won, his battle over
Let eternal love and gratitude guide
His final trip home.

Dedicated to my nephew, Army Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Zeigler, of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood. He was killed August 12, 2006 when an improvised explosive device detonated near their dismounted patrol during combat operations near Baghdad.

G. LAMAR WILKIE,
Chief Petty Officer, USN (Ret).

Mr. Speaker, a grateful nation will never forget the heroism, patriotism, and devotion of

Sgt. Zeigler. He sacrificed his life in the line of duty to protect the United States of America, and we as a nation will be eternally indebted to him for his service. I am truly humbled to have had the privilege to represent Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Zeigler—a genuine American hero—in the United States Congress.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILD-
LIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2430, the Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act. This important bill reauthorizes the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration grant program first enacted in 1990 and renewed in 1998. It builds upon the successes of the program and ensures that both fish and wildlife resources will receive attention. It also expands the scope of the initiative to include grants for regional restoration work undertaken by federal, state, and tribal partnerships. The funds authorized in this legislation are critical to the widespread efforts to restore the vitality and water quality of the Great Lakes basin.

This bill is one small piece of the broader package of restoration priorities contained in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Strategy, released in December 2005. It is also largely the same as Title II of my bill, H.R. 5100, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Implementation Act. I am pleased that we are moving forward to enact some of the changes recommended by the GLRC in its comprehensive strategic action plan. I strongly encourage my colleagues to not only provide the necessary authorizations for conducting restoration activities in the Great Lakes, but also to provide the funding required as well. It is unfortunate that this program has received paltry levels of funding in recent years; much more is needed to accomplish the goals laid out in the GLRC Strategy.

I thank Senator DEWINE, Congressman KILDEE, Congressman KIRK, and all the other Members who sponsored and supported this legislation. Today is a victory for the Great Lakes and for the thousands of good people working to protect and restore fish and wildlife resources there.

NATO SUMMIT IN RIGA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cochair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus to draw attention to the upcoming NATO summit in Riga. One of the focuses of this summit will be the next round of possible NATO enlargement, scheduled to occur in 2008. Croatia should be at the top of the candidate list for membership into NATO and deserves an invitation for membership in 2008.

Since achieving independence over a decade ago, Croatia has taken huge strides with

democratic, economic and human rights reforms. They have been a key partner in the international community's efforts to build long-term support and stability in the Southeastern European region, and have been an active supporter of the global war against terrorism. Croatia fully recognizes the fundamental importance of sharing its visions of Euro-Atlantic integration with other countries in the region, and is prepared to be an example for developing democracies.

Croatia has benefited greatly from the substantial investment already made by the United States in the region. This investment illustrates our belief that Croatia is a viable partner in promoting democratic ideals and peace-keeping efforts internationally. I was proud to help further solidify this support last year, with the passage of House Resolution 529, which recommended Croatia's integration into NATO.

At the upcoming summit, NATO officials should be encouraged to definitively express their intentions to issue invitations for membership to qualified aspirant countries at the next summit in 2008, of which Croatia is at the top of the list. I wish to convey my strong support for the reform efforts being made in Croatia, and for an invitation to join NATO in the 2008 enlargement round. My congressional Croatian Caucus cochair, Congressman PETER VIS-CLOSKY, and I have also sent letters to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense encouraging the administration to express support for this goal.

Finally, many individuals have worked very hard to see that this important invitation comes to fruition. I would like to especially thank Congressman VIS-CLOSKY, the Embassy of Croatia, and the multitude of Croatian nationals and Croatian Americans who have been so committed to this cause. I would also like to enter into the RECORD a letter in support of Croatia's membership into NATO.

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF CROATIAN AMERICANS,
September 20, 2006.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
*Secretary, Department of State,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: The problems in our world today are many and the issues you are currently addressing as the leader of our diplomatic efforts, while on the right course, are extremely challenging. However, I am pleased to point out that one emerging bright spot in the problematic region of Southeast Europe is The Republic of Croatia. Since winning her independence ten years ago, Croatia has made great strides along the path to full North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) membership by implementing democratic processes, upholding the rule of law, partnering with her neighbors on human rights, remaining a consistent supporter of the global war on terrorism, and demonstrating stable leadership among the countries in that region. In addition, Croatia has diligently pursued her responsibilities under NATO's Membership Action Plan in adapting her military to the interoperable and readily available needs of future NATO strategies.

The upcoming NATO meeting in Riga, Latvia, in November 2006 causes us to remember the great successes of this Alliance. For almost sixty years no member of NATO has ever been attacked, and all member nation-states have been blessed with economic prosperity. This is a group to which The Republic of Croatia aspires and to which she has earned the right to belong. While the NATO

meeting in Riga is scheduled to discuss 2007 as a year of transformation, we must also continue to focus on 2008, which is planned as the next year for possible NATO enlargement. Croatia deserves to be at the top of the list of countries qualifying as ready candidates in the 2008 enlargement round. I write to you today to request that Croatia's membership progress be discussed and properly reviewed with regard to early full NATO membership during the November Summit in Riga.

Croatia's democratic, economic, and defensive progress was recognized by the United States Congress late last year with passage of H. Res. 529 and S. Res. 342, both of which commended her and recommended that she be invited to join NATO as a full member at the earliest possible date. In addition, a delegation from the National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA) recently met with key representatives from both the U.S. State Department and the National Security Council and received very positive reports on Croatia's progress toward NATO membership and further integration into other western-oriented multilateral organizations. The NFCA will ensure that the Croatian American community in the U.S. continues to support all of these Congressional and Administration efforts, and we will rally our ethnic community as required.

The NFCA is very pleased with President Bush's recent appointment of Mr. Robert A. Bradtke as the new U. S. Ambassador to The Republic of Croatia. Mr. Bradtke's years of service, particularly with his experiences in the last NATO Enlargement, will serve him and the Croatian people well in these history making years for the country. The NFCA will also carry on its communication with Ambassador Bradtke to assist in any way we can towards greater enhancement of the relationship between the United States and The Republic of Croatia. He understands the importance of NATO for Croatia and is committed to reaching out to the Croatian people to continue building enthusiasm for full NATO membership. Your own support, in promoting the international progress of Croatia, is critically important. The NFCA sincerely appreciates your contributions and achievements in these difficult times for our country, and we ask that you support inviting the friendly country of Croatia to join the NATO Alliance in 2008.

If I may be of personal assistance to you on this important request regarding The Republic of Croatia's goal of full NATO membership, please do not hesitate to contact me at your first convenience. If our Government Relations Office may be of direct assistance to you or your staff, Mr. Joe Foley may also be contacted at the number below.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. ANDRUS,
President.

HONORING THE ALEXANDRIA CONVENTION AND VISITORS ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association for its 10 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Alexandria community. The Association was established as, and remains, the City of

Alexandria's official marketing agency for tourism on what is known as "The Fun Side of the Potomac."

Since ACVA's founding in 1996, annual tourism spending in Alexandria has more than doubled to over \$600 million, and the city's annual revenue from tourism has increased similarly. The direct marketing program created by ACVA has yielded a 58-to-1 return for the city, a number that continues to grow today.

Alexandria's tourism industry employs over 9,000 people who work in the city's hotels, restaurants, attractions, retail shops and related tourism businesses. The tourism industry has helped improve the overall quality of life of all citizens of Alexandria, who enjoy the same amenities enjoyed by visitors to the city.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association and the contributions it has made over the last 10 years making the City of Alexandria one of the most desirable places in America to visit. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the ACVA on its anniversary and to wish the organization all the best in its future endeavors

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AIRCRAFT LANDING AT THE SOUTH POLE BY LCDR "GUS" SHINN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first aircraft landing at the South Pole by Lieutenant Commander Conrad "Gus" Shinn.

Over 60 years ago, Gus became a pilot with the United States Navy and several years later began testing landing "skis" for aircraft to facilitate polar exploration. It was development of these skis through his testing and evaluation that not only allowed the establishment and support of large field stations in the interiors of Greenland and Antarctica but also the aerial mapping of over 200,000 square miles of unexplored polar territory. Gus's leadership was instrumental in developing a system to maintain these field stations and their research efforts.

No one had set foot at the South Pole since 1912, so it was even more remarkable that the next person to set foot in that unforgiving climate would do so by airplane. When Gus completed the first successful landing at the South Pole, he established his position not only as one of the foremost polar explorers but also one of the foremost pilots. His knowledge of polar exploration was considered to be on par with other famous figures such as Admiral Byrd and Lincoln Ellsworth. So highly regarded was his expertise in both aviation and polar exploration that he led the next four "Deep Freeze" missions that also landed at the South Pole. It was these missions, along with two other flights, that Gus participated in that allowed the materials and manpower to be flown in to build the United States base that remains at the South Pole today.

LCDR Shinn retired from the Navy in 1963, a legend in his field. National Geographic highlighted his party's efforts in 1957, but it is

difficult at best to fully do justice to the headway he made in exploring unknown parts of the world. Today, both he and the original plane he flew reside in my district in Northwest Florida, and I am proud to have him as a contributor to the area's rich heritage of aviation history.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to commemorate the vast contribution of LCDR Conrad "Gus" Shinn to polar exploration and the 50th anniversary of his successful landing at the South Pole.

McGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL
FOOD AND EDUCATION AND
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the gentleman from Massachusetts, my good friend, in introducing this bill to reauthorize the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. I first want to thank the gentleman for doing such a tremendous job in leading the charge on this particular program today and for spearheading efforts to increase discretionary funding for the Program year after year. This is a very important program for all of the children in the world who do not have access to nutritional meals.

This legislation, quite frankly, is a win-win for the American people, and it is a win-win for children all over the world who desperately need food assistance and who need an education. We all know, so very well, that our country is currently engaged in daily battles with individuals who want to harm Americans. However, we are also engaged in the daily battle for the hearts and minds of the "man on the street" in under-developed countries. It is in this battle that the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program holds great potential.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that we should know well: 120 million children worldwide are not enrolled in school. This fact is attributable in large part to hunger and lack of access to a nutritious meal. We share a common desire to try to help as many people as we can all over the world. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program provides these needed meals using American commodities, but it can do more. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education currently feeds millions while increasing school enrollment, particularly for girls. The legislation we introduce today would provide a more reliable source of funding, allowing USDA to reliably implement the program in countries for multiple years. Making multiple-year commitments is important. During a school feeding program's first year, average enrollment increases by 28 percent for girls and 22 percent for boys. In schools with feeding programs operating for more than one year, attendance for boys and girls increased to 93 percent.

I cannot think of anything more important for us to do as a nation. Senator McGovern stated it best when he said we had a moral responsibility as a country with rich and valuable natural resources and an abundant, safe food supply to help people who cannot help them-

selves. Increased funding for the program, which is included in this bill, would not only allow our partner organizations to reach more students, but would also allow the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program to expand and to begin providing resources for organizations which provide assistance to mothers with children under the age of 5 years. America needs friends, not just in the capital cities around the world, but on the streets in the poorest areas of the countries. This is one program that lets the world's poor observe our values first hand.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that food aid provided through the McGovern-Dole program also spurs economic activity in the United States. The domestic beneficiaries of U.S. food aid exports include our agricultural producers and suppliers, our processors, our millers, edible oil refiners, packaging, manufacturing, rail and motor transportation lines; I could go on and on and on. Most every State in the Nation benefits from food aid exports.

I would be particularly remiss if I did not acknowledge the vision of former Senators George McGovern and Senator Bob Dole who really led the charge early in this fight against hunger, many years ago when they were both serving in the Senate. This issue is also a very important issue for me, because my late husband Bill was so very instrumental in bringing the issue of hunger, both domestic and international, into the Congress where he worked so closely with his friend, the late Congressman Mickey Leland. I think that we must do everything possible to help the world's hungry children. When my late husband Bill came back from a trip to the Sudan, when he came back from various trips to Ethiopia and other countries, it was a very, very sad experience. He would hold dying children in his arms, children who were 12 years old and 13 years old, who were about the size of a 3-year-old or 4-year-old, who did not weigh anything, who had no opportunity to go to school.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program reflects the humanitarian values Americans share, it reflects the value Americans place on an education—regardless of sex or race, the program utilizes American resources, benefiting the American economy and it makes us safer. The McGovern-Dole Program deserves not only to be reauthorized but expanded.

TRIBUTE TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTER COALITION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO) in Hayward, California. In 1986 a group of Eden Area churches and businesses came together, through their mutual concern for homeless families, to form FESCO.

FESCO incorporated in 1986 and in 1987 purchased and rehabilitated a 2,200 square foot two-story house (built in 1917) near downtown Hayward and began serving homeless families in 1998. The shelter, later named Les

Marquis House, accommodates eight to ten families at a time, with most staying an average of forty-two days before moving into permanent housing.

Over time programs have been developed at FESCO to complement their provision of basic food, shelter and clothing. FESCO's professional counseling, life skills training, children's programs, resettlement, employment and housing services have all been structured to meet the needs of homeless families to enable them to become self-sufficient.

Volunteers also play a vital role in providing services to families at FESCO. They provide moral support, and donate their time and resources for fundraising activities and assistance with programs, such as Aftercare.

Aftercare programs include Back-to-School backpack distribution, Thanksgiving food boxes, and a Holiday Adopt-a-Family program. Many in-kind donations from individuals and corporate donors support the Aftercare program.

In 1999, 3rd Street Transitional Housing, a four-unit apartment next door to the Shelter, opened to serve 4 families for longer-term stays of eighteen to twenty-four months. This facility provides independent living with a professional counseling safety net.

In 2002, FESCO purchased, rebuilt and opened an 8 unit transitional co-housing facility. Banyan House provides food, shelter and services for eight families with stays from six to ten months while they prepare for self-sufficiency.

Today, twenty-nine churches and a host of businesses are part of a community partnership contributing to FESCO's successful delivery of services. Eighty-five to one hundred families receive services from FESCO each year and approximately two hundred families are active in their Aftercare program.

As FESCO celebrates twenty years of exemplary service, they continue to plan for the future. They are committed to providing encouragement, hope and a belief in the future for homeless families.

Congratulations FESCO on your milestone anniversary and thank you for making a positive difference in our community.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2430, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. I would like to thank Mr. KILDEE (D-MI) for his leadership on this critical effort to restore one of our nation's most precious natural resources.

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act reauthorizes the Fish and Wildlife Service to double the annual grants to States and tribes for the enhancement, conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife habitats in the Great Lakes. Since 1998, \$3.9 million in federal funds and \$2.7 million in non-federal matching funds were directed toward these efforts. The Act clearly draws vast participation from the Great Lakes communities in restoring this tremendous resource.

A key component of this legislation is wetland restoration. In Illinois, wetlands provide protective habitats for the forty percent of the state's endangered species and help stave off major flooding. Unfortunately, a staggering ninety percent of Illinois' wetlands have been destroyed. Through grants provided by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, 68 acres of rare wetlands in the northeastern Illinois' Nature Preserves were restored. Another eight wetland restoration projects were undertaken in the Chicago area. We must provide the authorization and management to continue such restoration and reverse the rapid rate of wetland destruction around the Great Lakes.

I want to thank Chad Lord from the Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition, Cameron Davis of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, and all the other organizations that work tirelessly on behalf of our environment and the Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation so that we may continue our mission to provide for the long-term sustainability of this treasured ecosystem.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME
SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to reauthorize the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program. Seven years ago, Congress established this program to provide the federal support needed for training activities at our children's teaching hospitals. In other hospital settings, training dollars needed for residents are funded, in part, through Medicare's graduate medical education program. With relatively few Medicare patients being served at children's hospitals, however, children's teaching hospitals cannot fully benefit from Medicare's graduate medical education program. CHGME was established to help alleviate the inequity faced by children's hospitals with respect to the training of their residents.

Since its inception in 1999, the CHGME program has achieved tremendous success and enabled our children's teaching hospitals to address reductions in the number of pediatric residents. With this funding, children's teach-

ing hospitals—such as Texas Children's Hospital in my hometown of Houston—have been able to keep their residency programs alive and ensure that the pediatricians treating our children and our grandchildren are trained at the best facilities in the country.

It's no surprise that the same children's teaching hospitals receiving CHGME funds provide the ideal training grounds for pediatric residents. These hospitals house the Nation's leading pediatric research institutions and provide residents with experience in treating the whole range of childhood health care problems, from routine immunizations to pediatric trauma care and pediatric oncology.

Continued CHGME funding is critical if our children's hospitals can continue providing quality care to low-income children, as well as children whose families have private health insurance. Nearly 50 percent of care delivered at our children's hospitals nationwide is provided to Medicaid beneficiaries, and CHGME payments help cover the gap created by a Medicaid reimbursement policy that covers only 80 percent of care delivered to Medicaid patients.

The CHGME program provides children's teaching hospitals with real funding, without which their residency programs would face severe financial strain. Texas Children's Hospital in Houston is one of the top children's hospitals in the country and received nearly \$11 million last year in CHGME payments. Even with this funding, Texas Children's absorbed an additional \$11.5 million in unreimbursed costs associated with their training of pediatric residents.

We want our pediatricians trained at quality hospitals like Texas Children's, where they can put their skills to use on a diverse set of patients. Through this type of education and training, pediatric residents can leave children's teaching hospitals and travel to all corners of the country armed with the experience to effectively treat the young patients in their community. CHGME makes this possible, and I encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of this important program.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH GHELETA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Elizabeth Gheleta on her tire-

less devotion to assisting jail inmates and their families in San Mateo County, located in my Congressional District. For 38 years, and for the past 28 years as Executive Director of the San Mateo Service League, Ms. Gheleta has committed herself to ensuring that San Mateo County provide opportunities for positive change to county jail inmates, former inmates and their families. Under her direction, the Service League has made San Mateo County a safer place to live by offering inmates the skills and support necessary to successfully reintegrate into the community.

Over the years, Ms. Gheleta has built the San Mateo Service League into a well-established, non-profit community organization with 25 staff members and over 500 volunteers. Equally important has been her effectiveness in winning the trust and support of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, which has cooperated and helped finance many of the Service League's innovative programs. Among these are the Windows of Opportunity to find effective alternatives to incarceration, Hope Houses and Project Hope for alcohol and drug treatment, and the Children's Waiting Room at the County Jail. With the support of San Mateo County Sheriff Don Horsley, the Service League has promoted the expansion of in-jail services, including education, religious services, substance abuse counseling, and re-entry to society life skills. Ms. Gheleta and her staff also developed four residential facilities for former inmates and started programs to assist the children and families of inmates.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Elizabeth Gheleta for her contribution to the improvement of our community in San Mateo County. Ms. Gheleta's vision and dogged determination has resulted in model programs that have addressed important social issues such as chemical dependency, personal responsibility, education, permanent housing and family life skills. The reality of this vision has truly given hundreds of former inmates and their families a second chance in life. I am truly delighted and inspired by Ms. Gheleta's commitment to our community.