

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF MARTIN D. GEFLAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Martin D. Gefland, on the occasion of his recognition as the 2006 Distinguished Recent Graduate by the Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

The CWRU School of Law annually recognizes a member of the alumni who, through his or her accomplishments and civic participation, enhances the perception of the profession, as well as the School of Law, in the community. Over the course of his legal career, Marty consistently has demonstrated the zeal and legal acumen to meet these requirements easily.

After completing his commission in the United States Navy, Marty embarked on his professional and educational careers, where he has evinced an unparalleled commitment to jurisprudence and the law. As a student at St. John's College, Marty served as a legislative intern to State Senator Gerald Winegrad. As a student at the School of Law, Marty was the president of the CWRU Environmental Law Society, as well as an editor for the Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law.

Since graduating from the School of Law and being admitted to the Ohio bar in 1997, Marty has employed his legal passions in pursuit of environmental and labor justice, as well as community health. As my senior counsel, Marty has been a tireless advocate for the residents of the 10th District of Ohio, and throughout Ohio. Marty was instrumental in saving hundreds of jobs, and millions of dollars in community resources, during the Primary Health System bankruptcy case and the Conrail merger. Marty continues his pursuit for environmental and labor justice by fighting to keep vital manufacturing jobs in Northeast Ohio, protect NASA Glenn Research Center, and maintain Cleveland's greatest natural resource, Lake Erie.

Marty also displays a commitment to community development through his involvement with myriad community service organizations, as well as his advocacy with Federal administrations to ensure that Cleveland receives all the resources it needs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Martin D. Gelfand on this special occasion. I and the residents of the 10th District are grateful for his tireless advocacy.

REGARDING TURKEY'S ACCESSION
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concerns with Turkey's

progress toward meeting its European Union, EU, accession criteria.

Today marks the deadline set by the EU for Turkey to demonstrate its willingness to implement the necessary policy changes prior to a summit scheduled for December 14–15 in Brussels, where the EU members will decide if Turkey will continue its accession process.

In a report released last month, the European Commission criticized Turkey's efforts to fulfill its obligations. In many critical areas including political rights and economic reforms, Turkey has much work to do. For example, Turkey is expected to show greater respect for and protection of human, civil, and political rights by guaranteeing freedom of expression in line with European standards. Additionally, Turkey has yet to ratify the Additional Protocols to the European Charter on Human Rights. Turkey must do more to protect religious freedoms, guarantee legal protections for women and children, and comply with International Labor Organization standards, including the right to collective bargaining. The report also detailed necessary improvements to infrastructure still to be made as well as the signing of the Energy Community Treaty that establishes a regional energy market in south-east Europe.

Finally, Turkey's obligations toward Cyprus remain unfulfilled. As part of this process, Turkey must normalize its relations with Cyprus, which joined the EU in May 2004. Unfortunately, Turkey still refuses to recognize Cyprus or open its ports and airports to Cypriot ships and airplanes. Additionally, Turkey has yet to extend the Customs Union to Cyprus to promote the free movement of goods and the removal of barriers to trade. If Turkey wants to join the EU, it should play by the rules.

Turkey is fully responsible for the outcome of this process, including if talks break off. If Turkey truly wants to be a member of the EU, it knows what actions it must take.

Turkey is at an important crossroads in determining its future. I will be watching with great interest to see how it handles all of these matters. I hope that it makes the right decision and takes immediate steps to meet its accession criteria.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, after 18 years of litigation, the Friant Water Users Authority, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, NRDC, in November reached a settlement agreement to restore the San Joaquin River. This historic agreement resolves the lengthy and costly litigation issues that created an atmosphere of uncertainty for the Friant Authority and the growers that rely upon Friant for their water supply.

I rise today in support of the settlement agreement and in support of H.R. 6377, the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act. This legislation not only sets out a course for the implementation of this historic agreement, but it also resolves issues that are crucial to my constituents in California's 18th Congressional District. Without this legislation, the settlement could result in significant costs—in the millions—for downstream landowners and flood control operations, and also would have untold impacts on water delivery systems for the State of California. The release of water to restore the river would have a domino effect downstream—from flooding, water table impacts, impacts on farmland and crops near the river, Endangered Species Act impacts and resulting water supply impacts to Delta water exporters—Central Valley and State Water Project contractors—and upon San Joaquin River tributary agencies—Merced, Turlock, Modesto, Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts.

This legislation ensures that the release of restoration flows down the San Joaquin River will not transfer impacts downstream. After weeks of negotiations with the impacted parties, Senator FEINSTEIN and my other Valley congressional colleagues, I am pleased that we were able to come to an agreement on language that would allow the settlement to go forward, while at the same time protect the water rights and property rights of those not party to the litigation. Specifically, the language provides that the resulting spring run salmon population would be considered an "experimental population" and therefore not subject to the terms of the Endangered Species Act if the salmon migrate from the San Joaquin to its tributaries to the State or Federal export pumps in the San Francisco Bay Delta. This language will protect CVP and SWP contractors as well as Merced, Turlock, Modesto, Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts from water supply impacts.

This legislation also allows the settlement to go forward with a phased-in approach, requiring the Bureau to conduct a feasibility study on the issues of costs and impacts and mitigation of the various options to release restoration flows. No water, other than test flows and minimum restoration flow levels, will be released until a feasibility study and mitigation plan for property is completed.

The settlement agreement's two goals of restoration and water management are equal goals. In order for this settlement to be successful, it is crucial to have the continued support of the Friant Water Users. Meeting the water management goals of the settlement, with the Bureau developing an effective recirculation plan with excess pumping capacity and a recovered water account to mitigate a substantial portion of the water losses to Friant districts, is the best path toward this success. Successful implementation also dictates that funding is provided to meet both of these goals.

I remain committed to continuing to work with my Valley congressional colleagues, Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER, the settling parties

• 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.

and third parties to ensure that this legislation and the settlement agreement are implemented consistent with these goals.

TRIBUTE TO NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC., PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH, AND DR. DORIAN J. WILSON FOR THEIR WORK ON NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH AND THE LINKAGES TO LIFE PROGRAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the participants in The Linkages to Life Program of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., which has as its service area Essex, Hudson, Bergen and Passaic counties in the fine state of New Jersey. Each year, for the past 5 years, Links, Inc., and Roche form a major lifesaving or life-altering function by conducting the Linkages to Life program in houses of worship. Today approximately 93,000 people are awaiting transplant surgery, and 25 percent of the people awaiting transplants are of African descent.

Nationwide, we reserve the second weekend in November each year to emphasize the need for life-saving and life-altering blood, organ and tissue donation in houses of worship throughout the United States of America. The National Trends and Services Facet of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., chaired by Beverly McQueary Smith, a past president of the National Bar Association, and a native and resident of Jersey City, New Jersey spearheaded this year's effort on behalf of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc.

Links, Inc., is built on a foundation of friendship and service. Sarah Scott and Margaret Hawkins founded it on November 9, 1946, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Today, it contains a network of over 10,000 Black women. Gloria P. Watson, the principal at Dionne Warwick Institute in East Orange, New Jersey, is the current president of The North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., established in June 1949. The Motto for Links, Inc., this year under the leadership of National President Gwendolyn B. Lee, Ph.D. is "Seizing the Opportunity to Provide World Class Leadership, Friendship and Service." The members of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., exemplify that motto.

By way of background let me first say that the United States Department of Health and Human Services started to coordinate National Organ Donor Sabbath in 1996, and November 10–12, 2006 marked the 10th anniversary celebration of the National Donor Sabbath program.

My friend Beverly McQueary Smith, who worked on my first campaign many years ago, was blessed with a hardworking and diligent committee. The members of the National Trends and Services Facet include:

Jessica L. Morse, who works for Community Agencies Corporation of New Jersey in Newark;

Dr. Paulette Stanford who promotes HIV and AIDS prevention and awareness at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey;

Dr. Montrae Calhoun Thomas, a pediatrician in Orange, NJ and the first lady of Pilgrim Baptist Church, and last, but certainly not least,

The Honorable Shirley Tolentino, a judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey sitting in Hudson County, a former president of the National Association of Women Judges, and a former president of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., organized this year's Linkages to Life program at Pilgrim Baptist Church on 34 Hudson Street in Newark, New Jersey.

Linkages to Life focuses on educating people of African descent about the importance of blood, tissue and organ donation, and Linkages to Life is a 5-year partnership between Roche and Links, Inc., which resulted in the publication of a pamphlet, "Can We Talk?"

The Reverend Clarence Thomas, the pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Newark, NJ, agreed to allow members of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., to worship with and to present its Linkages to Life Program on National Donor Sabbath to the members of Pilgrim Baptist Church. He delivered a powerful sermon on organ donation.

Dr. Dorian J. Wilson, a transplant surgeon and a native of Jersey City, and member of the faculty at The University of Medicine and Dentistry spoke at the Linkages to Life program at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Leslie and Laureen Britton, Kevin and Tawanna Waters, and the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, an administrative law judge in the city of Newark and also a member of the North Jersey Chapter of the Links Inc., discussed the impact of organ and tissue donation on their lives. Garry Branch spoke in his choir robe about how he learned that he needed a kidney transplant. Other members of the congregation talked about their decisions to donate organs of their loved ones.

Former Chapter President, Leanora Logan serves as the Eastern Area Representative for National Trends and Services, who returned from a meeting in Virginia to bring greetings at the Linkages to Life program. Attendees recognized the hard work of the representatives from Ketchum Marketing including Katie Donnelly, Nichole Rothkopf, Adam Pawluk and Amy Losak of Link Victoria Dent's office. They thanked Gail Safian and Ellen Lambert of Roche for providing the brochures and organ donor cards for the Linkages to Life Program.

The North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., thank Newark City Council President Mildred C. Crump and her counsel, Victoria F. Pratt for making sure that members of the City Council provided proclamations to Pilgrim Baptist Church and the North Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc., during the service.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the hard work of people who work in and serve my congressional district. Their work was reported by the New York Times, The Houston Chronicle, The Record, News 12 NJ, and also aired on The Today Show. This body should acknowledge their willingness to help let my constituents know how important it is to donate blood, tissue and organs.

IN CELEBRATION OF RILEY MOORE, AN EXCEPTIONAL GODFATHER

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th Birthday of my Godfather, Riley Moore. Riley Moore exemplifies all the qualities one would want or expect from a Godfather.

I am 57 years old and Riley Moore and his wife of 56 years, Mattie, have not missed a birthday, a graduation, a Christmas, an election victory, the birth of my son, my marriage, the celebration of the life of my mother, or any other significant or insignificant event in my life. For all of these reasons, I am eternally grateful for the love and instruction I have received from Riley and Mattie Moore.

Riley and my father, Andrew Tubbs, worked together as skycaps for United Airlines for almost forty years. My mother, Mary Tubbs, and Mattie Moore were born on the same day. They were both members of the Wives Club, an organization composed of wives of skycaps. The Wives Club hosted picnics, parties and other events in support of their husbands.

Riley introduced my father to the game of golf more than fifty years ago. He and my father have since golfed all over the world. Their circle of friends in golf includes Charles Sifford, who was recently inducted into the Golf Hall of Fame in Scotland. It also includes Renee Powell, one of only three African-American women to ever play on the Ladies Professional Golf Association's (LPGA) tour, and her father, William Powell, who was the first African American to design, construct, own and operate a golf course. This golf course is located not far from my district, in Canton, Ohio. At age 90, Riley is still an avid golfer.

Although Riley and Mattie have moved from Cleveland to Centerville, Tennessee, they have yet to miss an opportunity to celebrate an event in my life. In addition, they call my 86-year-old father every Sunday. Although he is homebound, he eagerly looks forward to these weekly phone calls from his friend.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that everyone could have a godfather like my godfather, Riley Moore.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL A. BRANDT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel A. Brandt, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel A. Brandt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING IMPERIAL HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENT OF 2006 DISPPELLING THE MYTH AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Imperial High School, in my congressional district, the only high school in the Nation to receive a 2006 Dispelling the Myth Award, an award of the Education Trust. Five schools were presented this award by Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings on November 3, 2006, as part of the Education Trust's 17th National Conference on "Closing the Achievement Gap."

Imperial High is described in the award program as a school "just a few miles from the Mexican border. Seventy percent of Imperial's students are Latino, many of whom are English language learners. Seven years ago, the school was considered chaotic and low-performing. After . . . identifying students who need help and support, matching instruction to standards, and encouraging students to think beyond high school graduation, Imperial is now considered a California Distinguished School."

There are 773 students in grades 9–12 at Imperial High. Principal Lisa Tabares and her teachers deserve great praise for the caring environment and high standards they have developed in which remarkable accomplishments are achieved by their students.

The Education Trust, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and eight other Foundations, has worked since 1990 for the high achievement of all students, focusing especially on schools serving concentrations of low-income or Latino, African-American or Native American students who, because of their environment, may need assistance to achieve at high levels. Their Dispelling the Myth Program honors high-performing and gap-closing schools that serve large populations of low-income or minority students.

The four other schools so honored in 2006 are Capitol View Elementary in Atlanta, GA; East Millsboro Elementary in Millsboro, DE; M. Hall Stanton Elementary in Philadelphia, PA; and Port Chester Middle School in Port Chester, NY.

"These schools provide compelling evidence . . . that when we teach students to high levels and focus on closing the achievement gaps, students succeed," said Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust. "These schools are a testament to the power of committed educators to transform the lives of children who too often get less than their fair share of what public education has to offer. We owe these educators a great deal of gratitude."

As an educator, one of my top priorities is to provide a quality education for each and every child. I am proud of the principal and

teachers and especially the students of Imperial High School for their achievements. I sincerely thank them for their contribution to the community of Imperial.

TRIBUTE TO COUNTY SUPERVISOR CYNTHIA MURRAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor County Supervisor Cynthia Murray on the occasion of her retirement from two terms on the Marin County Board of Supervisors,

Since she was first elected in 1998, Cynthia has been a forceful voice on key issues in Marin County. She has been in the forefront of promoting transportation infrastructure improvements, from fighting for public transit as a member of the Golden Gate Bridge Board to chairing the Policy Advisory Group for widening a key bottleneck on Highway 101.

Cynthia has also stepped up on other important issues, especially emergency services and disaster preparation, seniors' independence, education and workforce, sustainable economic development, the battle against Sudden Oak Death, and wetlands preservation. She has chaired the Disaster Council and the Long Term Care Task Force and served on the Schools to Careers partnership, North Bay Watershed Association, which she founded, and Novato Business Education Roundtable. Regionally she sits on the Bay Area Economic Forum and chairs the Bay Area Water Forum.

Cynthia has been a strong partner to my offices in working for shared priorities such as education—life-long learning, mentorship and internship programs for youth, and increased access to technology in schools; affordable housing—Community Development Block Grants, the Section 8 voucher program, Community Opportunity funds; breast cancer research; the Older Americans Act and expansion of programs for seniors; transportation—car pool lanes, bike paths, the Golden Gate Bridge seismic retrofit, and the acquisition of the railroad right of way; conversion of Hamilton Air Base, and environment—acquisition of Bel Marin Keys V and restoration of over 1,800 acres of wetlands in Bel Marin Keys, Hamilton and Bahia.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Cynthia was the oldest of seven children. This may explain why she so easily handles many responsibilities. She graduated from Rutgers University and moved to Marin in 1978. In 1988 she moved to Novato where she served 7 years on the Novato City Council, including one term as mayor. She has two children, Katie and Mack, who are both in college.

Mr. Speaker, Cynthia Murray will remain active and involved in local issues. I have enjoyed working with her as a supervisor and look forward to her continuing participation in issues affecting the people of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN J. "JACK" RODGERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of Columbus, GA, who has distinguished himself as a dedicated and exemplary public servant. The Hon. John J. "Jack" Rodgers at age 64 is retiring from the Columbus Consolidated Government after 24 years as a member of the Columbus Council. He served 8 of those years as mayor pro tem, having been unanimously elected to that position by his fellow councilors for four consecutive 2-year terms.

Mr. Rodgers, who was born in Pittsburgh, PA, has lived in Columbus since 1961. He was inducted into the United States Army in 1961 and served honorably for 2 years. Shortly after his honorable discharge in 1963, he married the former Barbara Riddle who has given him constant love and support in parenting two children, through whom Jack and Barbara have four grandchildren. Mr. Rodgers not only adopted Columbus, GA, as home for himself and his family, but also accepted leadership roles in business and government. He earned a B.S. at Columbus State University in 1973.

Jack Rodgers had a distinguished 21-year career with Ford. He then launched his own mortgage company and has been chair and CEO for 15 years. His successful participation in the business community provided an excellent background for his work at Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City, AL, where he taught business and economics for 7 years.

During his service on the Columbus Council, Mr. Rodgers was selected for four 1-year terms as Budget Review Committee chairman. He also served as the council's Ethics Committee chairman, and had a major role in developing revisions to the city's tax law by chairing the council's Occupational Tax Committee. Among the many notable and worthy projects to which he has contributed vital energy and leadership was the placement of the "Eternal Flame" memorial in front of the Columbus Government Center, a project for which he and then-Councilor Bobby Peters led fundraising efforts in the private sector. His wisdom and counsel, especially in financial matters, are frequently sought by other councilors and by citizens in his council district, as well as throughout the city.

Jack Rodgers is known as a devout Christian, a longtime member and leader in Edge-wood Baptist Church of Columbus. He has often been called upon for invocations and other prayers in council meetings and on other public occasions.

His civic and social affiliations, which bespeak his dedication to service, include: the Rotary Club of Columbus; the Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center Board, of which he formerly served as vice-chairman; the Valley Rescue Mission, of which he is a former board member; president of the Heritage Educational Foundation; board member of the Columbus Technical College Foundation; and board member of the There is HOPE Foundation. His leadership qualities also have made him valuable to governmental associations: the Georgia Municipal Association; the

National League of Cities; and the Georgia Municipal Association/Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

Today, as Jack Rodgers moves into retirement from government service, we honor him and thank him for all he has done for the benefit of Columbus, GA—as an elected official and as a private citizen dedicated to the good of others. His exemplary service to his community has set a standard of dedication and leadership that has inspired many and will inspire many others.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEVORK S.
HOVNIANIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a most deserving business and community leader, Mr. Kevork S. Hovnianian. On Saturday, November 18, 2006, Kevork was honored as the Honorary Life Chairman and founder of the Fund for Armenian Relief at the New York Public Library.

Kevork has been a benefactor in his community for decades. His business successes have always been interposed by examples of community leadership in both the United States and Armenia. He has exemplified the pursuit of business consciousness and never compromised his commitment to providing “homes” and not just housing.

Kevork will leave a personal legacy marked by numerous accomplishments. In the 1980s, he partnered with the city of Newark to rejuvenate the areas impacted by the riots some thirteen years before. In 1996, the New Jersey Institute of Technology awarded him a President’s Medal for “Distinguished Achievement to an Outstanding Entrepreneur.” Not three years later, his carer ethic earned him a place among other greats like Thomas Edison and George Gallup on the list of “Twenty Five Top New Jersey Business Leaders of the Century.”

The achievements he has earned since his immigration to the United States have not made him forget his roots. Kevork has loyally contributed to the Armenian people in times of celebration and need. The Diocese of the Armenia Church and the New Jersey Council of Christians and Jews both named him Man of the Year in recognition of his aid to earthquake victims in Armenia.

He currently serves as the chairman of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund and Fund for Armenian Relief, which works for international development. This organization pledges to provide short and long-term plans for the economic and social development in Armenia. It is responsible for a variety of programs, ranging from soup kitchens to educational scholarships and implementing agricultural technology. There is a special focus on preparing Armenian youth as the future of their nation.

As much as he is an active part of the Armenian community, Kevork remains vigilant in providing available health services to children and families in the local community. In 2002, Mr. Hovnianian helped establish the K. Hovnianian Pavilion and the Alton A. Hovnianian Emergency Care Center at River-

view Medical Center. The expansion of River-view provided the facility with a new pavilion and emergency care center, which now houses the most advanced emergency and critical care centers in the area. Earlier this year, he funded the first state-designated children’s hospital in New Jersey’s Monmouth and Ocean counties, named The K. Hovnianian Children’s Hospital in his honor. Here, families can find dedicated and personal health professionals who treat their patients as if they were their own children.

Mr. Speaker, Kevork embodies the American dream. He came to America to escape political turmoil in Iraq, and through hard work and unwavering motivation, he is now able to realize that dream in others through his service to the community. His dedication and passion deserves the utmost recognition.

SIKHS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF
GURU NANAK, FIRST SIKH GURU

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because earlier this month, about 15,000 Sikhs from all over the world celebrated the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak, in his birthplace, Nankana Sahib, which is now in Pakistan. The Sikhs in attendance chanted slogans of “Khalistan Zindabad” calling for the liberation of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. Over 3,000 Sikhs from Punjab were in attendance and many of them commented on how much better they were treated in Pakistan than in their own country.

A delegation of Sikhs met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. He pledged to build a road from Kartarpur, where Guru Nanak died and where there is a shrine to him, to the Indian border if India would build a road to the border also and repair a bridge at the border. This would enable Sikhs to go to Kartarpur and honor Guru Nanak whenever they choose to do so. I call on the governments of Punjab and India to build this road and fix the bridge.

The Pakistani government also issued an open invitation to Sikhs to come and visit Nankana Sahib whenever they wish with no restrictions, although they did express concern that agents of India’s Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) would use this to come in and try to undermine Pakistan. That is a very real and legitimate concern.

It is tragic and offensive that the Sikhs who went to Nankana Sahib felt that they were better treated in Pakistan than in their own country. That just shows why the Sikhs in Punjab need to be free of Indian rule. The sovereignty of the Sikhs, recognized in the Indian constitution, was used in cancelling Punjab’s water deals with India. It should be used by the Legislative Assembly to declare Punjab’s independence, as the Sikhs did on October 7, 1987. Such a declaration from the legislature would carry a lot of weight.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the beacon of freedom, America, to take a stand. We can help to stop the tyranny and the repression by stopping our aid and trade to India until full human rights are restored to all people there. And it is time for a free and fair

plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the question of independence, as well as Kashmir, Nagalim, and wherever people seek their freedom. India promised Kashmir a plebiscite in 1948 and it has not yet delivered on the promise. When will “the world’s largest democracy” decide that it is time for the people to enjoy the most basic of democratic rights, the right to self-determination? If India is the democratic country it says it is, what could be wrong with a simple vote?

I request the permission of the House to insert the Council of Khalistan’s press release on the events in Nankana Sahib into the RECORD at this time.

SIKHS CELEBRATE GURU NANAK’S BIRTHDAY
WITH REVERENCE—AIR FILLED WITH
KHALISTAN ZINDABAD SLOGANS

WASHINGTON, DC, November 16, 2006.—More than 15,000 Sikhs came from the United States, Punjab, Thailand, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and around the world to Nankana Sahib celebrate the 537th anniversary of the birth of their first Guru, Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion. Guru Nanak was born in 1469. This is the highest number of Sikhs who have attended the event since the partition of India. Over 3,000 Sikhs came from Punjab. At the celebration, the air was filled with slogans of “Khalistan Zindabad.”

The delegation met with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in Islamabad on November 4. He welcomed the Sikhs with open arms and offered a road link between Kartarpur and the Indian border if India agrees to build a road on its side and repair the bridge. He said Sikhs were free to visit Kartarpur whenever they want without a visa. The Pakistani government has issued an open invitation to Sikhs from around the world to come and visit Nankana Sahib with no restrictions. Any genuine Sikh who wants to come and visit may do so. There was some concern about agents of India’s Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) coming to destabilize Pakistan, however.

The government and people of Pakistan welcomed the Sikhs and treated them so well that Sikhs from Punjab asked why they were treated so well in Pakistan, which is not our country, but in the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, the Indian government does not treat them fairly. India attacked the Golden Temple, the center and seat of Sikhism, in June 1984. Since then, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs and another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) India has killed over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir as well as 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits (the dark-skinned, aboriginal “Untouchables”), Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. A MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing “if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]” The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government’s murders of Sikhs “worse than a genocide.”

Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. “How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?” asked Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh. President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate the Sikh homeland from

Indian occupation. The Gujarat massacre was pre-planned, according to a police officer who spoke to Indian newspapers. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, churches have been burned, Christian prayer halls and schools have been attacked, and police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

India is also destroying Sikhs economically. The Indian government fixes the price for fertilizer very high and the price for produce very low so Sikh farmers can't even get the cost of production for their crops. This year it fixed the wheat price at Rs 750 per quintal. Even Badal demanded Rs 1000 per quintal. If Punjab farmers could sell their produce across the border in Pakistan and the Middle East, they could easily get close to Rs 1,500 per quintal and would be able to make a living. India seeks to destroy the Sikh Nation religiously, economically, and politically.

"Freedom is the God-given right of every nation and every human being," said Dr. Aulakh. Sikhs must be allowed to have a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Khalistan. In a democracy, you cannot continue to rule against the wishes of the people. As former Senator George Mitchell said about the Palestinians, "the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination." "We must reclaim the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said. Dr. Aulakh appealed to the Akali Dal and other Sikh parties in the Punjab Legislative Assembly to pass a resolution documenting all the mistreatment and economic exploitation of the Sikhs by the Indian government since independence. India diverts Punjab's river water, its natural resource, to neighboring Haryana and Rajasthan without any compensation despite Chief Minister Amarinder Singh cancelling Punjab's water agreements with India. We salute Captain Amarinder Singh for this legislation. In the legislation, the Legislative Assembly explicitly affirmed the sovereignty of Punjab as described in the Indian constitution. This same sovereignty can be used by the Assembly to declare independence. India will be helpless and the Sikh diaspora will help to free Khalistan.

India is on the verge of disintegration. Kashmir is about to separate from India. As L.K. Advani said, "if Kashmir goes, India goes." History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said. "Montenegro, which has less than a million people, has become a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations," he said. "Now it is the time for the Sikh Nation of Punjab, Khalistan to become independent. The sooner the better."

"The only way that the Sikh nation can flourish and progress is in a sovereign, independent Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. NEJEDLY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to pay tribute to the life of former California State Senator John A. Nejedly who died on September 19, 2006. For more than 35 years, Senator Nejedly dedicated his life to serving the people of California and his Contra Costa County community. As a California State Senator, Mr. Nejedly was a brilliant leader in environmental policy and following his career in the senate, he was a relentless advocate for disadvantaged youths in Contra Costa County and throughout California.

John A. Nejedly was born on October 22, 1914, in Oakland, California, and had been a resident of Walnut Creek since 1938. He graduated from the University of California with a Bachelor of Science degree and in 1941 earned his law degree from Boalt School of Law. His ties to the University were especially strong and the gold sweater he wore as a symbol of his devotion to Cal soon became his trademark.

In 1942, with World War II at hand, John Nejedly became an intelligence officer in the Army Air Force and served as a Japanese language officer until his honorable discharge in 1946. Shortly after the war, John opened his law firm and was soon after appointed to the position of City Attorney for the city of Walnut Creek and Deputy District Attorney for Contra Costa County. He worked diligently in this capacity for 12 years before being elected Contra Costa County District Attorney.

In 1969, District Attorney Nejedly was elected to the California State Senate. John served the people of the 7th Senate District with distinction for 11 years. As a State senator, he wrote some of California's most important environmental laws and in the process became one of our State's principal water policy experts. He also helped create one of California's greatest urban park institutions for Contra Costa County. Renowned for his art of persuasion, John was instrumental in securing our precious resources for generations to come and, as a result, in 1966 he was named one of ten "Outstanding Americans in the Field of Conservation".

Senator Nejedly retired from public office in 1980 and followed his passion of helping disadvantaged youth full time. He donated 80 acres of landing California's Sierra Mountains to provide a camp for the Boy Scouts and created the Contra Costa Youth Council to assist disabled, and underprivileged youth take pleasure in the outdoors. In addition, he funded a generous scholarship to help minority adults today who will never forget the generosity and compassion John Nejedly showed them in their youth.

Throughout his life, John was magnificent leader. Whether it was water, open space or parks he was a pioneer. He was a true public servant.

To John's children, Mary Piepho, his sons, Jim and John, his stepson, Greg, and his grandchildren I extend my heartfelt condolences. Their loss is shared not only by those who knew John personally but also by all those who have been touched by the work he has done. We will be forever grateful for the integrity, compassion and generosity with which he sought to make our community, the State of California, and our country, a better place for all of us. We are extremely grateful to John's family for sharing him with us for so many years.

CONGRATULATING ERIELE JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Erielle Johnson for earning a spot on the Texas Girls Coaches Association's All-State Volleyball Team. This honor is awarded to top female athletes for their superior performance on the court.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest group of girls' athletic coaches in the nation, and serves the coaches and administrators at every level of education. The elite All-State Volleyball Team is selected by a committee panel of coaches and administrators, and is comprised of the most competitive female athletes in the state.

As a senior at Pilot Point High School in the 26th District of Texas, Erielle manages to give her absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. As a 4-year starter, she has led the LadyCats to regional quarter and semifinal games. Ms. Johnson was named the District 9-3A Most Valuable Hitter.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Erielle Johnson, and I wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAIGON PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the first anniversary of the Saigon Plaza Community Center, sponsored by the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Saigon Plaza has excelled in its first year, having established valuable links and bridges of friendship between the people of America and the people of Asia, especially Indochina.

The Saigon Plaza has been a beacon within the community promoting peace, progress, justice, and friendship. The Saigon Plaza

has opened its facilities up to various groups and agencies throughout Northeast Ohio area for gatherings, events, celebrations, and other community activities. Under the sponsorship of the Friendship Foundation, the Community Center has presented many worthwhile events and services including art exhibits, festivals, veterans' memorial events, job and employment events, and other community activities. The Saigon Plaza and Friendship Foundation have also assisted members of the Vietnamese-American, Kampuchean-American, and Laotian-American communities by providing various services for them, including tax educational activities, financial counseling, and utility assistance.

The Saigon Plaza also has spread its marvelous works outside Ohio and the United States. They have established programs of economic development, women's enterprises, and handicapped people in Vietnam as well as countries of Southeast Asia, establishing an outlet for their goods and handicrafts. The Plaza is a vital source of Vietnamese and Asian culture locally, and bridges international communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of the Saigon Plaza and the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Their work and dedication has reached across borders to aid communities locally and internationally.

H.R. 1176, THE "NONPROFIT ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006"

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1176, the "Non-profit Athletic Organization Protection Act of 2006." This legislation would provide broad immunity to nonprofit athletic associations which enact rules governing athletic competitions. In some cases, these rules have resulted in injuries to children and participants including serious head and spinal injuries because of swimming pools that were too shallow for diving. I also have strong concerns that passage of this legislation would preclude victims of sexual assault from bringing civil lawsuits against nonprofit athletic associations which have acted negligently.

Unfortunately, the Majority, in its rush to adjourn, has brought a bill to the floor that leaves children vulnerable to abuse. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF MODESTO

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure and gratitude that I rise

today to recognize Soroptimist International of Modesto as it celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

Soroptimist International of Modesto is one of the first service organizations for women in Modesto and has been an important part of our community as a leading service club for seven decades. This organization is dedicated to making a difference in the future of our community by working together with local community and government leaders in addressing issues that women value and by developing and promoting projects in education, environment, health, human rights/status of women, international good will/understanding, and social and economic development. Their membership is composed of women of all ages, cultures and ethnic groups who are committed to making a difference through service.

Soroptimist International of Modesto is also a leading philanthropist in our community who donates generously to the Modesto area through their service projects such as the Community Christmas Tree at Vintage Fair Mall, scholarships and other local community organizations and projects such as the MOMobile.

Soroptimist International of Modesto truly makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of its members. I am honored to recognize this outstanding organization and all of the members whose time, energy, vision and commitment has made the organization the involved, informed and active part of our community that it is today. Their efforts have undoubtedly made a difference in lives of the residents of our community and I commend each and every one of them for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Soroptimist International of Modesto in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our congratulations on its 70th Anniversary and in extending our best wishes for continued success and prosperity for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ARTHUR THOMAS—80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a highly valued citizen of my home city of Newark, New Jersey. John Arthur Thomas celebrates his 80th Birthday on December 6, 2006. He has been married for fifty four years to Elizabeth Lee Nowlin. In addition, he is the father of two wonderful daughters and grandfather of two grandsons and triplet granddaughters. He has dedicated his life, for almost five decades, to educational and political development throughout the state of New Jersey.

Mr. Thomas, who is devoted to service, has established himself as an innovative member of his community. From marching with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the March on Washington to serving as Chairman of the Urban League of Hudson County, he has proven his dedication to service and leadership.

One of his leadership positions, that had a profound impact in my development during my high school years, was as the assistant football coach in Newark, New Jersey. Continuing with his commitment to sports, he currently serves as co-chair in the Newark Athlete Hall of Fame Annual Dinner held in Newark.

In the 60's Mr. Thomas was the founder of the "Crispus Attucks Day Parade" celebrating Black History.

The parade is currently titled, "The African American Black Heritage Day Parade" and is the largest African American heritage parade in the state.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring John Arthur Thomas, who becomes 80 years young on December 6, 2006, for his tireless work for the Newark community. He is a paragon of true virtue through his selfless dedication to the betterment of others. I am proud to have him in my Congressional district and wish him never-ending success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF TROY SMITH FOR EXCELLENCE IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a constituent of the 11th Congressional of Ohio, the starting quarterback for the Ohio State University football team, Mr. Troy Smith. Mr. Smith is currently a senior majoring in communications. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Smith attended Glenville High School, which he led to the state playoffs. After a strong senior year at Glenville, Smith was invited as one of eleven of the top high school quarterbacks at the elite 11 competition where he earned great praise. Following his performance, Ohio State recruited Smith late in the recruiting process.

As a freshman, Smith played sparingly as a running back and kick returner. As a sophomore, Smith was a backup quarterback but took over as starter when starter Justin Zwick was injured halfway through the season. Smith won four of five games as a starter, including a victory over archrival Michigan. Soon after, Coach Jim Tressel decided to make Smith the sole starting quarterback.

Smith was named the Offensive MVP of the 2006 Fiesta Bowl after leading the Buckeyes in a victory over the University of Notre Dame. Smith was recently honored as one of five finalists for the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, which is given to the top senior college quarterback. In three games against Michigan, Smith has a total of 1,151 yards of total offense, two rushing touchdowns, and seven passing touchdowns. Smith is the first Ohio State starting quarterback to win three straight games against Michigan. Additionally, Troy

Smith is the frontrunner for the 2006 Heisman Trophy award. As his Congresswoman, I am confident that he will receive this honor.

I have been a Troy Smith booster for many years. I have personally known Troy since 1999, when he and my son Mervin attended St. Edwards High School together. I have known Troy's father, Irvin, since kindergarten, when we attended Mile Standish Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio. We have maintained a friendship throughout the years. I am so proud of Troy Smith's accomplishments and pray that God continue to bless him, keep him healthy, and give him the wisdom to make good decisions.

It is thus my pleasure, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, to recognize the exceptional accomplishments of Ohio State University football player Troy Smith, one of our own.

RECOGNIZING JARED DANIEL MALONE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared Malone, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jared has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jared has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Jared has shown.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Jared in the United States House of Representatives.

THE HONORABLE LEON L. WILLIAMS—A TRUE INSPIRATION TO ALL

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the city of San Diego had the honor of recognizing one of its greatest civic and progressive leaders, the Honorable Leon L. Williams who finally retired, after more than three decades of public life.

Early in his career, Leon was an executive with the San Diego Urban League, a director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps and an administrative assistant to three county sheriffs. Leon used these early positions to become a voice for police reform—advocating a community-based police approach long before it became popular or trendy.

Many present and former elected officials have greatly benefited from the knowledge and wisdom of Leon over these past 30 years. Whether as a member of the San Diego City Council, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors or as Chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board, Leon's statesman-like qualities and demeanor were appreciated, admired and copied by many of his colleagues, associates and staff members.

As a strong advocate for developing older neighborhoods, not discarding them, Leon led the charge to create the Centre City Development Corp. and the Southeast Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). An unquestioned authority on urban transportation issues, Leon's ideas and vision helped San Diego develop a top-notch transportation system. That is why, in 2004, Leon was selected Board Member of the Year by the American Public Transportation Association. Also, Leon strongly believed, correctly I might add, that the San Diego Trolley System would bring the many neighborhoods of San Diego closer together.

Several of Leon's towering contributions to San Diego remain in place today and have blossomed; for example, both the Trolley and SEDC have grown and continue to provide well paying jobs and numerous business opportunities to residents living in southeastern San Diego.

Even in retirement, Leon remains gracious with his time, civic expertise and wisdom by helping to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.

The Honorable Leon L. Williams truly has been an inspiration to all of San Diego.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF JAMES K. CONZELMAN TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, behind every successful Member of Congress is a good staff. When I was elected in 1981, I was told that my first and most important decision would be to find an outstanding Chief of Staff who could build a loyal and effective team.

That first decision turned out to be my best. Jim Conzelman has been my only Chief of Staff during an amazing 25 years in the history of the House of Representatives and our Country. He is a trusted aide and personal friend who has played an integral role in our accomplishments on behalf of the Fourth District and the Nation as a whole.

Jim came to me from that hotbed of political activism—Bozeman, Montana—with credentials from the Ford presidential campaign, the Select Committee on Assassinations, and a Member office. I was the newest recruit of a minority party near its low ebb in the House.

But it was a good time to be young and a Republican because the Reagan Revolution had begun. As I cast votes to advance the President's agenda, Jim assembled a support team that allowed me to meet my twin objectives of becoming a respected legislator in Washington and a persuasive advocate for my constituents.

The foundation that Jim built proved to be a lasting one during the quarter-century that followed. There have been memorable legislative battles, from telecommunications reform to financial services modernization to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. In 2001, we made the unprecedented move from the Commerce Committee to the newly created Financial Services Committee. As counselor to the chairman, Jim helped me organize a committee soon recognized for its productivity and responsiveness to all of its members.

Jim inspires great loyalty by treating everyone he meets with respect. Considering the transient nature of most staff, the retention rate in my office is unheard of. My core staff when I announced my retirement had combined legislative experience of more than 250 years, a true tribute to Jim's management skills. Many other staffers have gone on to successful careers after getting their first "break" from Jim, who remembers the feeling of starting a career in a city where the U.S. Capitol exerts a magical influence.

In a town where success often depends on the relationships you build, Jim has thrived professionally through the strength of his personal character. It is evident in both his work on the Hill and his volunteerism for charitable causes like the Multiple Sclerosis Society. I am reminded of the observation that Doris Kearns Goodwin made in *Team of Rivals*, her book about Lincoln, that "the qualities we generally associate with decency and morality—kindness, sensitivity, compassion, honesty, and empathy—can also be impressive political resources."

Jim's ideals have remained the same since the day he arrived in Washington from Montana. He came for the same reason we all come—to serve the people and our Country. It is above all a privilege, but that should not prevent us from showing appreciation to those who have done the job well. With gratitude, "Team OXLEY" salutes Jim Conzelman for his service.

HOOKED ON HEALTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Southwest Georgia Public Health District's Hooked on Health campaign. Today, many in my home state of Georgia are suffering from poor health. One in four adults is obese and only two in five adults in Georgia are regularly active. Poor health choices put all of our communities at risk for major health problems, like cardiovascular disease. The growing rates of obesity and inactivity will continue to impact our communities if we do not take action to reverse these trends.

There are simple, yet highly effective, solutions to this growing health crisis. Under the leadership of the District Health Director, Dr. Jacqueline H. Grant, MD, the Public Health District in Southwest Georgia launched the Hooked on Health wellness campaign in January 2006 to address three major health priorities: promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing health disparities, and engaging community and educational partners in these efforts.

Hooked on Health approaches these priorities through a campaign model designed to increase physical activity, improve nutritional choices, and reduce tobacco use and lower stress.

The campaign brings in motivational speakers and introduces wellness activities and incentives from community partners, such as reduced fees at health clubs and health screenings. Hooked on Health has modeled this program to community partners representing local businesses, hospitals, school systems, government and nonprofits.

The success of the campaign in its first year shows that an investment in healthy choices makes an important impact. After just 8 months, the wellness campaign teams reported: 1,029 pounds lost, 13 improved lipid profiles, 21 hypertensive employees met blood pressure goals, four diabetics improved Hg A1C (a glucose control measure), one smoker quit and two decreased, and 88 percent are still engaged.

Jim Pericaud, a Public Health employee who participated in the Hooked on Health campaign, reported, "I started riding my bike to work last July. I ride to work 2 to 3 days a week. My wife has encouraged healthy eating by preparing meals of lean meats, fish and vegetables. I also do weight training. I have lost 15 pounds since July and I feel great!"

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the challenges facing our country's overall health and to highlight the solutions promoted through Hooked on Health in southwest Georgia as a model for employers, school systems and community groups across the country.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHARE AND
CARE FOUNDATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Share and Care Foundation for their charitable work in India. Their annual gala was recently held at the New Jersey Performing Art Center in Newark, New Jersey on Saturday, November 4th. I was pleased to attend that evening. This event marked the kickoff of their forthcoming Silver Jubilee of helping the challenged, especially women and children, in the fields of education, improving healthcare and social uplifting. They have also worked in emergency situations like earthquakes, floods, the tsunami, and September 11, etc. The majority of their work is carried out by volunteers who are professionals or entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to specially commend Dr. Ketki Shah who has been closely involved with the Share and Care Foundation. Dr. Shah, a Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, is an experienced Psychiatrist with specializations in Psychopharmacology and Addiction Psychiatry. She is a low keyed humanitarian with the sole purpose of helping people who need help. She attended a global women's conference in Geneva to promote peace in the world. Her work including field visits during emergencies like earthquakes and the 2004 tsunami are remarkable. Her work as a chairperson of the medical committee is directly correlated with over ten million dollars of med-

ical equipment and medical supplies that have been sent to India. This has generated tremendous benefit, especially for the people who are challenged and need our attention. She has demonstrated that excess and unuseful resources of one society can be diverted for the betterment of another society.

Dr. Ketki Shah's selfless work has earned the goodwill of many, especially those who are also involved in humanitarian work. This year, humanitarian Shabana Azmi and her husband Javed Akhtar appeared on stage in a riveting performance that highlighted the career of Shabana's father, a renowned poet and a freedom fighter. Shabana Azmi, leading star of Indian Cinema, is an outstanding social activist, a passionate advocate of human rights, and a prominent humanitarian. Her work in each of the areas has been exceptional and has earned her a long list of awards, recognitions and medals including Padma Shri, one of the prestigious recognitions in India.

She was one of the sixteen women to whom tributes were paid by President Mitterrand of France in 1989 on Bicentenary celebrations of International Human Rights. In 1993, she was invited to Cape Town to present "The News maker of the year award" to President Nelson Mandela. She has been appointed the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador on Population and Development. She was selected to Rajya Sabha by the President of India. On October 26, 2006, she was the first Indian to receive a prestigious Gandhi Peace award presented at the House of Commons, London. Previous recipients of this award include Nobel Laureates: Honorable Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

She had lead march of 4 days for communal harmony from Delhi to Meerut. Her heart goes to the economically challenged for whom she undertook a 5 day hunger strike and as a Chairman of Nivara Hakk, she has managed to get alternative land for slum dwellers. Her struggle for the poor in India has now resulted in the construction of 30,000 homes under a tripartite agreement among charities, a private builder and the Maharashtra government.

She has also addressed several Universities in the USA, such as Harvard, Columbia, Berkeley, and MIT, for the need to relate communal harmony to issues of social justices.

Shabana thrived and expanded the project "Mijwan Welfare Society" started by her father in Mijwan, a small "challenged village" in Uttar Pradesh, India where emphasis is placed on education and empowerment of women. We are extremely pleased to join hands with Shabana in this project to make a difference in one of the poorest regions with a very high infant mortality rate and birth rates, low female literacy and near absence of health and sanitation facilities. They have started 2 computer training schools, training center and "Sewa"; embroidery projects for women.

Shabana's accomplishments are countless and extremely commendable, however, her dedication to humanity is what makes her a special individual.

Mr. Speaker, Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar and Dr. Ketki Shah are all very special individuals who have made a remarkable difference in the global community. Together they have realized the benefits of volunteerism and self-help.

INDIA PLAYS THE VICTIM TO
COVER UP ITS TERRORIST
RECORD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last month, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh publicly stated that India is the victim of cross-border terror. The Council of Khalistan under the leadership of Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh wrote to Prime Minister Singh and reminded him that India has been sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh, a province of Pakistan, as the Washington Times reported on January 2, 2002 and that according to India Today, which is the leading news magazine in India, the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which the U.S. government has identified as a terrorist organization.

It has also sponsored domestic terrorism against the minorities within its borders, including murdering a quarter of a million Sikhs and holding another 52,000 as political prisoners; killing Muslims by the tens of thousands in Kashmir, where more than 90,000 have been killed, Gujarat, where between 2,000 and 5,000 died in a massacre preplanned by the government, and elsewhere; killing Christians throughout the country, including over 300,000 just in Nagaland; and mass killing many other minorities. Yet India proclaims itself the victim of terrorism and proclaims itself a democracy. Well, Mr. Speaker, it certainly doesn't act that way.

The repression and terrorism must be stopped. We should end all aid and trade with India until such time as the repression ends and people enjoy the most basic human rights, and we should throw our full support behind self-determination in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagalim, and wherever people are trying to be free. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. In addition, we should designate India a terrorist state and impose the sanctions that that designation brings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD. It is a frightening record of Indian terrorism.

INDIA IS A TERRORIST STATE, NOT A VICTIM

DEAR PRIME MINISTER SINGH: On October 4, you said that India is a victim of cross-border terrorism. India is a terrorist state itself and should be subject to the penalties that are imposed on terrorist states.

On January 2, 2002, the Washington Times reported that India is supporting cross-border terrorism in Sindh, a province of Pakistan, the very same kind of thing that Prime Minister Singh was claiming is victimizing India. In addition, India's leading newsmagazine, India Today, reported that the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), identified by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization, and its leaders were put up by the Indian government in the finest hotel in Delhi. How can you blame Pakistan when India started cross-border terrorism with its own actions?

The Indian government has committed terrorism against its own minorities. It has murdered over 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women, and elderly since 1984, as well as more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bobos, Dalits, Manipuris,

Tamils, and other minorities. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Tell the families of these innocent Sikhs and others that there is no terrorism in India.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khalsa was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The only witness to the Khalsa kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a note to then-British Home Secretary Jack Straw. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Gholna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs (hundreds of thousands.)" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Recently, militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto and the school there. A spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school!

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

It is good that you have admitted the guilt of the Indian government by for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, by apologizing for the massacres, but what good does it do the Sikh Nation? Where

are the apologies for the Golden Temple attack, the destruction of the Akal Takht, and the desecration of Darbal Sahib, and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families? That operation was yet another act of Indian domestic terrorism.

The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Whoever is honest and dedicated in leading that Shantmai Morcha deserves our support. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. Recently, Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal announced that they are uniting for sovereignty for Khalistan. This was met with chants of "Khalistan Zindabad." The Punjab Legislative Assembly proclaimed the sovereignty of Punjab when it cancelled the water agreements. Only by liberating Khalistan can we put an end to the repression and terrorism against the Sikh Nation by the Indian regime. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the liberation of Khalistan.

Last year, Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal Pradesh and their land was seized. They were beaten up by the police. Their homes were bulldozed by paratroopers. Their homes in many cases were built using their life savings and by their own hands. We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal Pradesh. As you know, Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Now Uttaranchal Pradesh joins that list. Yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. It is incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to free Khalistan. We must redouble our efforts. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs during June 1984 in Punjab. Among those who conspired with the government, according to Chakravayuh Web of Indian Secularism, were Dr. Chohan, Ganga Singh Dhillon, and Didar Singh Bains. It appears the Indian regime is even willing to arrest its own agents to suppress the movement for Khalistan! Now Badal and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh have been accusing each other of being tied in with "terrorists." These leaders view support for Khalistan as terrorism, as the Indian government does. They have shown where their loyalties lie. How will these so-called Sikh leaders account for themselves? Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's, memo calling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic

India. Our moment of freedom is closer than ever. Sikhs will continue to work to make certain that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may have lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President,

Council of Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ANGELO D'AGOSTINO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Angelo D'Agostino, a hero and a pioneer in the fight against AIDS in Africa.

I was deeply saddened when I heard news of Father D'Agostino's death. I met Father D'Agostino on my trip to Kenya in 2000 and I became a firm believer in his AIDS orphans and families programs.

He was a friend and a champion in the fight against AIDS. Constantly fighting the small battles on the front lines of the war against AIDS, he was responsible for improving the lives of many young Kenyans devastated by the scourge of AIDS.

Father D'Agostino, a Jesuit priest, was sent to Kenya to coordinate the refugee work of the Jesuits. Through his work, he was exposed to the AIDS-affected population of the country. All over Kenya, children were orphaned as AIDS claimed the lives of their parents; leaving the children alone, abandoned and in many cases HIV positive. He was deeply disturbed by the devastating effect of the disease on children and the community and knew that helping these children and families was his mission. Father D'Agostino dedicated his life to making a better life for those suffering the devastating effects of the horrible disease.

He founded the Nyumbani Orphanage with three children in 1992 and expanded it into a community for children and adults alike. The Nyumbani organization is also involved in community-based programs such as Leo Toto (meaning to raise a child), which are set up to provide outreach services to HIV-positive children and their families in the Nairobi area. His tireless efforts to better the lives of those touched by AIDS were widely successful.

Father D'Agostino believed that every individual had a right to an education. He successfully sued the Kenyan Government, forcing them to repeal a law banning HIV positive children from public schools.

Under Father D'Agostino's leadership, Nyumbani became the first place in Africa to import hugely discounted AIDS drugs. It also has the most advanced blood diagnostic laboratory in Kenya.

Father D'Agostino was truly a hero and a pioneer in the fight against the scourge of AIDS. He believed that every HIV positive and AIDS-inflicted child and family, no matter how poor or meager their existence, deserved the chance to live a better life. He was a model for those who wish to dedicate themselves to improving the lives of others. I admire his work and commitment in serving children marginalized by society. He will be missed.

CONGRATULATING LAUREN
MCKEAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lauren McKean for earning a spot on the Texas Girls Coaches Association's All-State Volleyball Team. This honor is awarded to top female athletes for their superior performance on the court.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest group of girls' athletic coaches in the nation, and serves the coaches and administrators at every level of education. The elite All-State Volleyball Team is selected by a committee panel of coaches and administrators, and is comprised of the most competitive female athletes in the state.

As a senior at Frisco Centennial High School in the 26th District of Texas, Lauren manages to give her absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. Ms. McKean led the Lady Titans to the Class 4A Regional finals for the first time in school history.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Lauren McKean and I wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES J.
GERMANA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and recognition of Charles J. Germana whose personal service to the greater Cleveland Community and the United States alike are a shining example of the all-American spirit. Charles' life is marked by his dedication to his country, community, and his family.

Charles valiantly defended freedom in World War II in the United States Navy. He transformed his courage and core values to civilian life when he actively led his community by founding the Seven Hill Democratic Club. Charles continued his leadership by proudly being elected as the Mayor of Seven Hills from 1967 to 1973. His public service career did not end there as he went on to selflessly serve as the Council President in Seven Hills.

Throughout his long and distinguished life, Charles did not only serve his community in elected positions. He was also a devoted and enthusiastic Boy Scout for 50 years. His strong leadership skills were cultivated heavily throughout a lifetime of volunteering and brotherhood in the Boy Scouts of America. Charles was also a very spiritual man, showing his faith as an active member of the Columbine Catholic Church.

Family was very important to Charles. His legacy continues through his wife, Mae; three children, Chuck, Joe, and Janet; and the memory of his daughter Emily; eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Charles' love and concern for his family reflected in his hard work and Four Star Insurance Agency, which he founded in 1954, still remains in the control of his family. Charles

Germana's love of his family and his dedication to public service continue on as his son Chuck carries the family torch of public service as the President of Parma City Council. Charles nurtured these values of leadership, service, brotherhood, and giving in all of his family—making him truly an honorable statesman and father.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, I am honored to ask you to join me in recognition of Charles J. Germana as a loving community leader, member, and pillar. Charles' unwavering commitment to his family, church, and community is a great example of how one man can in deep faith dedicate his life to helping others.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT "JASON"
SCHOWENGERDT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert "Jason" Schowengerdt, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jason has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jason holds the rank of fire builder as a Hardway Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. While achieving this rank, Jason has served the Maple Woods Community College community where he is still attending classes.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Schowengerdt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Jason in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CURTIS PARHAM
REDDING

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who has tirelessly dedicated his life to bettering his community. At the age of 74, Mr. Curtis Parham Redding, also known as C.P., is retiring as a Quitman County, Georgia Commissioner. He has served his community faithfully while blazing new trails for those who would follow him.

C.P. was born in Quitman County to proud parents, Curtis Lowe and Ora Inez Green Redding. As the eldest of three children, he quickly learned about dedication to family, service to nation, and responsibility. Quitman County is located on the banks of Lake Walter F. George in rural Southwest Georgia. The citizens of Quitman County are known for their strong work ethic and sense of self sufficiency and regional pride, and C.P. was no excep-

tion. With the exception of a few years, C.P. lived his entire life in Quitman County and was raised to love and respect his hometown. After graduating from Georgetown High School, C.P. recognized his love for politics and most importantly people. Realizing the town lacked social services, educational services, and basic services any citizenry would require, he began working hard to become a Quitman County Commissioner in 1975. During his first tenure as a Commissioner, he served for two years. Recognizing the need for involvement and higher basic educational standards for the County, he was then appointed to the Quitman County School Board where he served until 1994. C.P. was again elected to the Quitman County Commission and took office on January 1, 1996 and during this tenure, Quitman County achieved each of the goals C.P. established.

Although C.P. has decided to retire, his vision for Quitman County has not ended. C.P. has always believed that for small counties to flourish, it would be through organized coalitions. To this end, he has become active in creating and serving on Boards such as: Four County Economic Development Authority (Past Chairman), Southwest Georgia Chamber of Commerce (Past Chairman), and Southwest Georgia Housing Development Board just to name a few. He and his wife of fifty-five years, Annie Ruth Holmes who is the retired Director of the Quitman County Department of Family and Children's services, selflessly continue to devote their services to the advancement of Quitman County.

As an enduring testament of his dedication to his community and fortitude as a public servant, bids are currently being taken for the construction of a building to house the Quitman County Health Services since they have outgrown their present facility. Serving the needs of his community remains paramount to C.P. Redding.

Today, we thank and honor Mr. Curtis Parham Redding for his dedication and lifelong commitment to the welfare of others and his community. His lifetime of altruistic service has made him a legend in Southwest Georgia and an inspirational figure for us all.

CONGRATULATING KELSEY OWENS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kelsey Owens for earning a spot on the Texas Girls Coaches Association's All-State Volleyball Team. This honor is awarded to top female athletes for their superior performance on the court.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest group of girls' athletic coaches in the nation, and serves the coaches and administrators at every level of education. The elite All-State Volleyball Team is selected by a committee panel of coaches and administrators, and is comprised of the most competitive female athletes in the state.

As a senior at The Colony High School in the 26th District of Texas, Kelsey manages to give her absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. Ms. Owens has also been named the MVP and Captain of her Lady Cougars team.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Kelsey Owens and I wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

RECOGNIZING THE CHATTY HATTY
RED HAT LADIES OF RAINBOW
SPRINGS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a group of women from Rainbow Springs, Florida who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their efforts to help the soldiers serving in Iraq. The Chatty Hatty Red Hat Ladies of Rainbow Springs have adopted soldiers serving in Iraq, sending them care packages each and every month. The Ladies deserve recognition for their efforts.

Earlier this year, the Red Hat Ladies contacted my office to find soldiers from the 5th District currently deployed in Iraq. The Ladies were looking to adopt a couple of soldiers from the district and to send them packages filled with necessities and goodies. These women wanted to let our troops know their friends back home support their service in the Global War on terror.

As you might imagine, those first few soldiers grew to nearly 30 soldiers that the Ladies eventually adopted. Each month they put together three large care packages for the troops, and once a quarter they send over a special box of movies so that the soldiers can have a "movie night," complete with packages of popcorn.

To help celebrate Christmas, the Ladies and their friends took up collections and donations to ship the troops a Christmas tree with all the trimmings, as well as individual stockings stuffed with gifts. This way the soldiers can enjoy Christmas, even though they are still serving in Iraq and missing their friends, family, and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, volunteer groups like the Chatty Hatty Red Hat Ladies of Rainbow Springs are just one of the thousands of dedicated organizations throughout the Nation who support our troops overseas. Millions of Americans have donated their time and their money to ensure that our troops know the folks back home support their mission and hope they return home safely. The Red Hat Ladies are to be commended for starting this adopt-a-soldier program and for helping to brighten their days of service.

DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION
SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL SYM-
POSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND
CONGRESS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this December 8–10, an international symposium on democracy and congress will be held in Taipei, Taiwan. The symposium is sponsored by the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU), a non-govern-

mental organization founded in 2005 in Taipei for the purpose of fostering better relations among members of parliaments from countries around the Pacific Rim.

This year's symposium will feature speakers from a number of countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United States and Taiwan. Taiwan Vice President Annette Lu, the driving force behind this year's symposium, is to be commended for putting this conference together.

I support and endorse the symposium's goal: It is time for everyone in the international community to respect one another, to abide by international norms, and to respect the common values, namely, democracy, peace and prosperity.

I hope my colleagues will find the time to participate in this important symposium on democracy and congress.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BLOCK

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William (Bill) Block of Morrison County, Minnesota, who recently retired after serving 24 years as a Morrison County Commissioner representing District 5. Bill has rendered long, distinguished, and dedicated service for his community and the State of Minnesota.

First elected as a Morrison County Commissioner in 1983, Bill's list of accomplishments is both lengthy and varied. Under his stewardship, Morrison County expanded its airport, built a new Government Center, implemented a county-wide 9–1–1 system, promoted economic development, developed the Belle Prairie Park as a premier visitors destination, resolved a recurring flooding problem from Fletcher Creek, converted an abandoned railway into a recreational trail, and improved highway safety.

As County Commissioner, he brought together individuals with diverse and sometimes contentious positions through his dedication, hard work, and diplomacy. Admired by his fellow Commissioners, department heads, and county employees, I know that Bill will be sorely missed.

I wish Bill and his lovely wife Barb well as they move onto other life pursuits. Because of the many contributions he made to his community, Bill deserves to hang out his "Gone Fishing" sign.

I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this well-deserved tribute to Bill Block, who has given so much of himself to enrich the lives of others and to serve his community.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA BASS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Patricia Bass, one of Philadelphia's and the Nation's leaders in our collective efforts to pro-

vide high quality, accessible care and treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Bass played a central role in building Philadelphia's response to HIV/AIDS as the co-director of the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office. Today, I rise to salute Ms. Bass's tenure as Chair of the Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition. CAEAR Coalition is a leading voice for the treatment and care needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Ms. Bass has served as Chair of CAEAR Coalition for 6 years, leading the organization in its annual efforts to secure increased appropriations for the Ryan White CARE Act. She has also guided CAEAR Coalition's collaborative and evidence-based efforts over the past 3 years to reauthorize a strengthened Ryan White CARE Act that responds effectively to the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. Consistently mobilizing its members across the county to advocate with their elected officials on behalf of the care and treatment needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, CAEAR Coalition epitomizes the important role that our constituents play in helping us to understand the needs of those in the communities we represent.

Ms. Bass's experiences and perspective as a nurse and African American woman who has worked on the frontlines of the epidemic inform her understanding of HIV/AIDS and its impact on communities of color, and her voice has been critically important in policymaking discussions and dialogue with Congressional leaders and staff.

I know that when the Ryan White CARE Act is reauthorized, the provisions in the final law will undoubtedly be better because of Ms. Bass's vision, leadership and long-term commitment to a coalition comprised of those giving and receiving care and committed to carrying those experiences directly to their elected representatives.

Today, I rise to thank Ms. Bass for her leadership and wish her much success in her continued efforts to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS at home and abroad have the care and treatment they need.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET FORGACH
CUMMINGS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Forgach Cummings, a tireless public servant for the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Ms. Cummings, currently a Deputy Sheriff, will be retiring after serving the citizens of Pima County for more than 20 years. She has served my community with honor and compassion throughout her career.

She started her service as a volunteer crisis advocate with Pima County Attorney's Victim-Witness Program. Her stellar commitment and performance as an advocate laid the foundation for her to participate in a Meditation program with a grant from Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA). She was one of five individuals that initiated the program at the South Tucson Police Department.

Her reputation and selfless devotion as volunteer earned her the opportunity to become a Police Dispatcher for the South Tucson Police Department. Mastering that position, she

proved to be an invaluable member in support of the city's police force. Recognizing her abilities, the police department trusted Margaret with further responsibilities, and through the 1980's Margaret served her community with distinction as Emergency Radio Dispatcher.

More recently, Margaret has benefited the Tucson community by volunteering as Reserve Deputy of the Pima County Sheriff's Department, in addition to her duties as a Public Safety Dispatcher. Her dedication to the well-being of the residents of Tucson makes her an outstanding citizen and public servant, and I am honored to recognize her efforts.

RETIREMENT OF DR. LINDA J. FURIGA OF THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Linda J. Furiga, who will retire from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on January 3, 2007. Her distinguished government career spans 40 years, and her record of achievement during this period reflects great credit upon herself and upon the organizations with which she has served. Her contributions to the National Defense will be missed as she moves on to new opportunities.

Dr. Furiga is a member of the Senior Executive Service and has received numerous awards during her 40-year career. Most recently, Dr. Furiga was recognized for her outstanding service with the President's Distinguished Rank Award.

She began her civil service career as a Secretary Stenographer with the Air Force in 1967. With great drive and determination, Dr. Furiga quickly transitioned to a professional career field in financial management with the Defense Logistics Agency.

Dr. Furiga has since held numerous financial management positions in DLA and was also briefly the Director for Resource Management at the Defense Acquisition University. On July 7, 1997, Dr. Furiga became the DLA Comptroller and served in this capacity until her retirement.

As Dr. Furiga transitions from her role as a key financial leader in the Department of Defense to other pursuits, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Furiga on her retirement. Her dedication and service to the Federal Government is a model for others to follow, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. ANSON ELLIOTT

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Anson Elliott, head of the Department of Agriculture at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, for being named the Agriculture Leader of the Year by the Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow program. He has

dedicated 38 years to not only being a leader himself, but mentoring many of today and tomorrow's agricultural leaders.

As head of the MSU Department of Agriculture, Anson oversees seven undergraduate comprehensive degree programs and collaborates on the administration of three Masters Degree programs. Additionally, Anson is responsible for the budgets of three off campus agriculture centers and has budgetary responsibilities for various foundation accounts including oversight of private, public and foundation grants. Anson has several publications, including a chapter in an American Society of Agronomy book on the hybridization of crops. In addition to administrative responsibilities, Dr. Elliott teaches three classes on a yearly basis and serves as an advisor to student organizations.

Anson Elliott is making a difference in America's agricultural community. As an advisor and a friend of mine, it gives me great pleasure to offer these words of congratulations to a true leader in Missouri agriculture.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT LOCKWOOD, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in joyful remembrance of the life and work of Robert Lockwood, Jr., a giant of Delta blues, whose music and spirit will leave a lasting legacy in Cleveland, his hometown since 1961.

Born in Turkey Scratch, Arkansas, Robert Lockwood, Jr., began playing the guitar at the age of 11. Under the tutelage of master bluesman Robert Johnson, Lockwood was playing professionally by the age of 15.

Over time, Lockwood developed a unique musical style of his own, going beyond the Mississippi Delta Blues he mastered as a youth. Two of his albums, "I Got to Find Me a Woman" and "Delta Crossroads" were nominated for Grammy Awards. He is the recipient of numerous honors, including the National Heritage Fellowship presented to him by HILLARY CLINTON in 1995, two National Blues Music Awards from the Blues Foundation, induction into the Blues Hall of Fame, and honorary doctorates from Case Western Reserve and Cleveland State Universities.

Home of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland's diverse cultural community thrives on music and art. Robert was a regular performer for years in the popular Fat Fish Blue, a blues-themed restaurant and bar in Cleveland, and in venues all over the city. Robert's infectious music and hypnotic finger-picking has left an indelible stamp on Cleveland as well as a whole musical genre.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory and legacy of Robert Lockwood, Jr., protege to Robert Johnson, mentor to B.B. King, and entertainer to generations of fans. His soulful blues and personality will live on in our hearts.

CONGRATULATING ASHLEY BYRD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ashley Byrd for earning a spot on the Texas Girls Coaches Association's All-State Volleyball Team. This honor is awarded to top female athletes for their superior performance on the court.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest group of girls' athletic coaches in the Nation, and serves the coaches and administrators at every level of education. The elite All-State Volleyball Team is selected by a committee panel of coaches and administrators, and is comprised of the most competitive female athletes in the State.

As a senior at Denton Ryan High School in the 26th District of Texas, Ashley manages to give her absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. Ms. Byrd has led the Lady Raiders to their first playoff berth since 2000, and was named the District 4-5A Most Valuable Player.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Ashley Byrd and wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

H.R. 4766, ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. This measure will empower Native American tribes, organizations, and colleges as they seek to preserve Native languages and cultures.

In many Native American communities, Native languages are disappearing at an alarming rate. It is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050. Providing grants to Native American language programs consisting of language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs will bolster the effort to preserve this important part of our Nation's history and culture.

By encouraging a greater focus on Native language programs, we are not only striving to preserve the identity of the Nation's tribes, but we're encouraging greater academic performance among Native American students as well. In fact, the legislation requires that Native American language survival schools work toward a goal of all students achieving both fluency in a Native American language and academic proficiency in mathematics, reading (or language arts), and science. It is our intention that students in survival school programs demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to their appropriate grade level.

It is also our intention that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans administer this program in such a way that Native American survival school grantees be required to obtain parental

permission for students to enroll in the survival schools. All parents should be able to make decisions about their children's education, and this bill provides Native American parents with new opportunities to do so.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthwhile legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND TITLE 17, UNITED
STATES CODE

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague from Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, and I introduce a bill to amend Section 119 of Title 17 of the United States Code. This modest, consumer-focused measure would simply allow a court to accept a negotiated settlement between parties to a lawsuit in which it is alleged that a satellite television provider has engaged in copyright infringement by providing the signals of out-of-market television stations to ineligible homes.

I, like many of our colleagues, have been flooded with phone calls over the last several weeks from concerned constituents who subscribe to EchoStar's DISH network satellite television service. They are upset and confused because their access to the signals of out-of-market network television stations was suddenly cut off, and many of them are now unable to receive any network television service from DISH. Many of the affected households are in rural and underserved areas with a limited choice of alternative video programming providers to turn to. In my district alone, thousands of people have lost service, and nationwide, 800,000 are affected.

The Satellite Home Viewer Act (SHVA), which was enacted with my support in 1988, allows residents to receive by satellite the network signals they cannot receive over-the-air from their local broadcast television stations. As a result, thousands of Southwest Virginians and millions of Americans who cannot view local television signals over the air today receive by satellite ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC network channels that originate from markets outside of their own communities. In some areas of the United States, particularly in mountainous regions like Southwest Virginia, a home may be predicted to receive a strong over-the-air signal from a local television station but not actually get a quality picture. Receipt of good local television signals is effectively blocked by obstructions between viewers' homes and the local station. These households have come to depend on the distant network channels for important news and emergency information, as well as network programming. Without SHVA, millions of Americans, particularly those in remote areas, would be denied network television programming.

Since December 1, 2006, EchoStar's DISH network has been prohibited by a permanent injunction from providing out-of-market signals to any of its subscribers due to violations of SHVA. The court which enjoined EchoStar also rejected a settlement negotiated by EchoStar and affiliates of the ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC networks which would have avoided

mass consumer disruption by allowing DISH to continue to provide most out-of-market channels. I am deeply disappointed that the court found that it could not accept the settlement, an outcome which was acceptable to the defendant and four of five plaintiffs in the case and which would not have prevented the fifth plaintiff from availing itself of the remedies provided by statute. In virtually any other lawsuit, the parties may settle at any time, even after the jury or judge has rendered its decision. I am gravely concerned that the result of the court's action has been a denial of network programming to hundreds of thousands of households located primarily in remote areas.

The simple, straightforward measure we introduce today would merely clarify that the court has the option of accepting a settlement between the parties to a distant signal copyright infringement lawsuit. It would enable the court to protect consumers, who are the true victims here, from the abrupt cutoff of all network television service. The ability to receive network television programming is important to Southwest Virginians, and I am committed to assuring its availability by satellite throughout my district.

I therefore urge my colleagues to protect rural households by adopting this measure and clarifying that a court may adopt a settlement to which the parties in a lawsuit have agreed.

WELCOME TO FIRST LADY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, MRS.
MEHRIBAN ALIYEVA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the new co-chairman of the Azerbaijan Caucus, it is a privilege to join with my good friend, the gentleman from Texas and fellow co-chairman SOLOMON ORTIZ, to welcome to Washington, DC, the first lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva.

We welcome Mrs. Aliyeva as a member of the Azerbaijan parliament—Milli Majlis—and as chairperson of the United States-Azerbaijan Inter-Parliamentary Working Group.

This week, Mrs. Aliyeva and a delegation of parliamentarians from Azerbaijan are meeting with Members of Congress and administration offices to further reinforce understanding of Azerbaijan and encourage dialogue between Congress and the Milli Majlis.

Members of the parliamentary delegation include: Gultakin Haciyeva, New Azerbaijan Party; Ganira Pashayeva, Independent; Evda Abramov, Independent; Malahat Hasanova, New Azerbaijan Party; and Ali Huseynov, New Azerbaijan Party. Also part of the delegation is Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev, a former ambassador from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States.

We thank our distinguished colleagues for their visit and encourage continued support of the Inter-Parliamentary Working Group and coordination with the Republic of Azerbaijan, one of our important strategic allies.

TRIBUTE TO KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the country of Kazakhstan on the occasion of its 15th anniversary of independence from the former Soviet Union on December 16, 1991. Kazakhstan has been at the crossroads of trade and empires for centuries along the ancient Silk Road, and today plays an increasingly important role in the stability and security of the Central Asian region, and of our world.

I had the privilege of visiting Kazakhstan along with Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT, Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY and former member Don Bonker in January of this year to see first hand the accomplishments that have been made since 1991. While in Kazakhstan we spent considerable time with members of the President's Cabinet and the current speaker of the senate, Nurtai Abykayev learning about current work going on in their country and their endeavors in making Kazakhstan a real leader in Asia and the world.

In the first few years after independence, Kazakhstan successfully rid itself of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and closed the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, an unwanted legacy from the U.S.S.R., and continues to be a model for the global community. In 2005, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution congratulating Kazakhstan on the 10th anniversary of the removal of all nuclear weapons from the country and commended Kazakhstan-U.S. cooperation in this sphere as a "model." Earlier this year, this House unanimously adopted resolution 905 congratulating Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of the closure of the world's second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and for its efforts on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Kazakhstan condemned the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on September 11, 2001 and has been a staunch supporter of the U.S. led international coalition against global terrorism since. Kazakhstan provides free overflight rights and a major international airport for U.S. and coalition aircraft for operations in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan works with the international community to bring peace and stability to Iraq following the U.S. led campaign to end Saddam Hussein's regime. Kazakh military engineers in that country have destroyed more than 4 million pieces of ordnance since 2003.

On a visit to Astana in 2005, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Today, Kazakhstan is poised and ready to break a path for a new Silk Road, a great corridor of reform . . . A strong and prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan will once again energize the global transmission of learning, and trade and freedom across the steppes of Central Asia. This nation has a glorious past and it is destined for a hopeful future. Kazakhstan's greatest days lie ahead of it. And the United States wants to be your partner."

During his 2006 visit to Washington President Nazarbayev and President George W. Bush signed a joint statement which says, "We are satisfied with the progress made by

Kazakhstan and the United States of America in the promotion of our strategic partnership, and announce our commitment to promote stability, prosperity and democratic reforms in Central Asia and outside of the region." The joint statement also stipulates the U.S. support for Kazakhstan's plan for accession to the group of the 50 most competitive countries in the world, according to the strategy of President Nursultan Nazarbaev, and for Kazakhstan's membership in the WTO. The document recognizes Kazakhstan's leadership in regional integration, considering its significant contributions in Eurasia and Afghanistan. The joint statement outlined a number of directions of the bilateral cooperation underlining "we announce our intention to further strengthen our strategic partnership via strengthening strategic dialogues on energy, military collaboration, trade, investments and democratization. We express solid confidence that our enhanced strategic partnership will assist to security, prosperity and democracy development in the 21st century."

President Nursultan Nazarbayev has called for a massive transformation of Kazakhstan's political life and strengthening the country's move to democracy in a March 2006 speech to the first session of the State Commission. The priorities include significant strengthening of the role of the national Parliament, increasing the numbers of deputies in both houses of Parliament; continuing the introduction of elections of akims—mayors—at district levels, and the introduction of a bill on local self-government. "Democracy is the choice of civilized people, and it is our choice too," President Nazarbayev said.

Mr. Speaker, because of Kazakhstan's peaceful transition to democracy, its strong commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons, and her strong support for our country in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, I rise today to congratulate all her people on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of their independence.

H.R. 4766, ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. H.R. 4766 will help to preserve all the indigenous languages that are still being spoken.

It is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050. Providing grants to Native American language programs consisting of language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs will help to preserve this important part of our Nation's history and culture.

By encouraging a greater focus on Native language programs, we are not only striving to preserve the identity of the Nation's tribes, but we're encouraging greater academic performance among Native American students as well. H.R. 4766 requires that Native American language survival schools work toward a goal of all students achieving both fluency in a Na-

tive American language and academic proficiency in mathematics, reading (or language arts), and science. It is my intention that students in survival school programs demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to their appropriate grade level.

It is also my intention that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans administer this program in such a way that Native American survival school grantees be required to obtain parental permission for students to enroll in the survival schools. Parents should be able to make decisions about their children's education, and H.R. 4766 provides Native American parents with new opportunities to do so.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) will be hosting an International Symposium on Democracy and Congress this December 8 through 10, 2006 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The DPU is a non-government organization established in 2005 for the purpose of enhancing stronger ties among members of parliaments around the Pacific Rim. DPU's goals are to train young leaders to install democracy in their own countries, to consolidate democracy and to compromise on regional differences.

This year's symposium will attract participants from Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the Republic of China and other countries. Participants will discuss such topics as the workings of congresses, presidential systems, and prospects for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will find the time to go to Taiwan to participate in the symposium and to visit with the leaders in Taiwan regarding bilateral relations, the war on terror, and the crisis in the Korean peninsula.

Also, I offer my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu for putting this symposium together. I applaud her leadership.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE BY FIDELITY ASSOCIATES INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services for their 100 years of service to Spokane, Washington. Fidelity Associates is one of the Inland Northwest's largest locally owned, independent insurance agencies, and one of its richest in terms of history and tradition. Fidelity Associates is a family-owned business and has the distinction of being one of the few to be passed from the hands of the third generation to those of a fourth.

In 100 years, this proud company has become a leader in the insurance world. From humble roots, it has grown to manage premiums in excess of \$40,000,000. This places Fidelity in the top 5 percent of all United States insurance agencies. Its employees are directly involved with over 8,500 clients through risk management, insurance, employee benefits and financial services. On top of all this, the employees of Fidelity Associates post thousands of hours toward community service each year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services, the Jones Family, and the exemplary employees for their 100 remarkable years of service to our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this company and the family which has led it for so long.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HILLIARD DAVIDSON WILDCATS, THE 2006 OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and adulations to the 2006 Hilliard Davidson Wildcats football team, which on Saturday, December 2, earned the title of State Champions in the Division I Ohio State Football Playoffs, and finished its storybook season a perfect 15-0.

No superlative or tired sports cliché can effectively capture the magic of the Wildcats' season. Consistently overlooked and routinely outsize by its opponent, week after week, Davidson utilized its underdog role, its unglamorous but methodical offense, and its blistering defense to knock off yet another favored adversary. Davidson won with discipline, with heart, and perhaps most importantly, with class and dignity.

Quietly, Davidson has amassed a 73-25 record under the leadership of Coach Brian White, and has firmly asserted itself as a premier, dynastic program in central Ohio. However, each year, Davidson and other central Ohio high school football programs are largely ignored by the football experts and pundits, and relegated to the shadows of storied, goliath programs in the northeast and southwest parts of the state.

This year, however, one by one, the Goliaths fell to David—or in this case, Davidson. In its heart-stopping, double overtime victory on Saturday, Davidson fully entrenched itself in the hearts and minds of central Ohio football fans, and served notice to high school football aficionados across the State and Nation that Hilliard Davidson is second to no one.

Throughout its historic championship run, Hilliard Davidson represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness, and dignity—and its storybook season will be recounted for generations to come in central Ohio.

I could not be more proud than to represent Hilliard Davidson High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made 2006 such a memorable one.

IN HONOR OF JEANETTE
GRASSELLI BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in esteem of Jeanette Grasselli Brown's lifetime of profound accomplishments. Ms. Grasselli Brown has contributed immensely to the world through her distinguished career as a chemist, and since retiring she has been just as busy working to improve northeast Ohio.

After beginning her career as the only female chemistry major at Ohio University, Ms. Grasselli Brown continued to work for 39 years at BP America, retiring as the director of corporate research. At BP, Ms. Grasselli Brown fought to ensure that female employees received salaries equal to their male coworkers, and that they received flexible schedules while raising their children. While working full time, she earned her master's degree in organic chemistry, and wrote a monthly column called "Letter from America," for a European spectroscopy journal. Ms. Grasselli Brown also has served as an advisor for The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the International Women's Forum, the Ohio Academy of Sciences, the Smithsonian Institute, and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Furthermore, Ms. Grasselli Brown is a champion within the scientific world and is considered the outstanding woman chemist in the United States. She received the Garvan Medal in 1986 from the American Chemical Association, and the Fisher Award in 1993 from the American Chemical Society. In 1999, she followed these accolades with the American Chemical Society's Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. She has been recognized by the Society for Applied Spectroscopy with their Distinguished Service Award; she has received 13 honorary doctoral degrees from universities in both the United States and Hungary; and she is listed in both *The World's Who's Who of Women* and *Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century*. In 1989, Ms. Grasselli Brown was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and she was the first woman to be inducted into the Ohio Science and Technology Hall of Fame. In addition to her full time job at BP, she has been a director of six corporations, three of which are Fortune 500 companies.

Ms. Grasselli Brown has been a tireless worker in the corporate, civic, and philanthropic realms, and continues her commitment to northeast Ohio through her work on numerous committees and boards of regents, acting as trustee and chair.

Today I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievements of this amazing woman, Ms. Jeanette Grasselli Brown.

RECOGNIZING KYLE HERNDON FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Herndon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Kyle has shown.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Kyle in the United States House of Representatives.

FRISCO RECEIVES COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Frisco and the Frisco Economic Development Corp. in the 26th District of Texas for receiving the Community Economic Development Award. The City of Frisco excels in bringing leadership, partnership, and creativity to the economy, and is the winner of the 40,000 to 100,000 population category.

The Texas Economic Development Council presents this prestigious award to member cities in recognition of exceptional contributions to their community. Superior projects in Frisco include the T-Mobile USA Technology Campus, DebtXS, Technisource, Inc., and the National Breast Cancer Foundation. These projects have created and maintained over 1,600 jobs for the community, and brought new investments of nearly \$64.2 million to the city of Frisco.

I am proud to recognize the city of Frisco as recipients of the 2006 Community Economic Development Award. Under the capable direction of Mayor Mike Simpson, City Manager George Purefoy, and the Economic Development Corp., the city of Frisco has cultivated a standard of excellence and leadership, and serves as a role model for all other communities.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS DOUGLASS,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DE-
PARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
FAIRS EDUCATION SERVICE

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Dennis Douglass, who will retire on January 3, 2007, after 30 years of service to our Nation's veterans.

Over the last 7 years Mr. Douglass has served with distinction as the Deputy Director for the Education Service at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He was a consummate professional with unquestioned integrity, who consistently exhibited management and leadership qualities that put him among VA's top performers.

I first had the privilege of meeting Mr. Douglass when I became chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and began working on legislation to improve education benefits for servicemembers and veterans. Mr. Douglass has always made himself available to Congress when needed and served on behalf of the Secretary with honesty and sincerity. He has been the VA's institutional memory on education benefits and his contributions will truly be missed.

Mr. Douglass began his Federal career in 1976 as a Veterans Claims Examiner at the VA regional office in Detroit, Michigan. In 1982 he transferred to VA Headquarters in Washington, DC, to work in Education Service. Since his arrival, he has written procedural guidance for education claims processing, assisted in systems design, performed quality assurance reviews, conducted regional office appraisal visits, and served as Budget Analyst and Staff Assistant to the Director of Education Service. In 1999 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appointed him Deputy Director in Education Service.

When asked, staff at VA describe him as an avid golfer with a penchant for corny jokes. Many remarked on his priceless collection of bad ties from the 70's and 80's. Overall, Mr. Douglass is known as one of the nicest persons that any of them have had the privilege to work with at VA. His colleagues state that his understanding of veteran's needs and his dedication to the job will be sorely missed by all, including the veterans he dedicated his career to serve.

Mr. Douglass was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and served honorably in the U.S. Army from 1969 through 1971. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1974 and did graduate work at Wayne State University. He resides in Springfield, Virginia, with his wife JoAnn, son Daryl, and daughter Alison.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. JACOBS, JR.

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as a journalism major, John W. Jacobs, Jr., understands that a person's life is like a newspaper.

From the announcement of birth, an event over which we have no control, to the obituary notice, which we will never read, events fill the pages of our lives, and it is how we respond to or create those events that will determine if our life's story is worth reading or remembering.

For John W. Jacobs, Jr., most of his life has evolved in Gainesville, Georgia, where he was born on November 28, 1922. He graduated from high school there and attended Riverside Military Academy for a year before venturing west to the University of Missouri to attend the prestigious journalism school. The outbreak of World War II interrupted his education and he soon found himself on the battlefields of Europe in one of the most important battles of the war, the Battle of the Bulge, where he was awarded two Silver Stars. When the war concluded, he finished his college degree and returned to his hometown where he began his career in communications by selling ads for a local newspaper.

He soon joined some of his veteran friends and formed the radio station WDUN. In the years that followed, he formed, bought and sold a newspaper, a cable television system and an FM radio station. Today, his company, Jacobs Media, owns three radio stations, an on-line local newspaper, and a travel agency. He and his son and daughter are the sole shareholders.

If that was all that John Jacobs, Jr., had done with his life and talents, it would be an impressive story worthy of an extensive spread in the business section of any newspaper. But that is only part of the story, for John understood that business success must be coupled with personal service if anyone is going to be inspired by the story of your life. And it is in this arena where the real story of John Jacobs can be found. He has served as President of the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce on two separate occasions, President of the Gainesville Jaycees, Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge, local President and Governor of the Georgia District of Kiwanis, President of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters and the Georgia Cable Television Association.

In addition, John has been active in Grace Episcopal Church, serving as Warden and Vestryman, chairman of Building Funds and Day Reader. John recognized that Brenau University was one of the jewels in his hometown and he has served on its Board of Trustees since 1958 and as Chairman of the Board for 23 years. For his long service and charitable support, he has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree and the Business and Communications Building has been named in his honor. He has also served as an active Trustee at Riverside Military Academy since 1975. It is no wonder that in 2000 Georgia Trend Magazine named him one of the 100 most influential Georgians, and that the City of Gainesville presented him with a Distinguished Citizen Award at its 180th Birthday Celebration.

Since 2003 his primary involvement has been with the Northeast Georgia History Center and the completion of An American Freedom Garden which pays tribute to veterans and their gift of freedom. This year he will complete 2½ years as President of that organization.

John's wife Martha Rand Jacobs, and their children, Elizabeth Carswell, and Jay Jacobs, and their seven grandchildren have set an example for service for all of us.

John W. Jacobs, Jr. has filled the pages of his life with excitement, successes and service, and every day he is writing a new paragraph. He is an outstanding example of a purpose driven life, and he is a great encourager for all who would follow in his path.

CONGRATULATING DR. RENÉ DÍAZ-LEFEBVRE FOR HIS SELECTION AS THE 2006 ARIZONA PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Dr. René Díaz-Lefebvre, Professor of Psychology at Glendale Community College in Glendale, Arizona, for his selection as this year's Arizona Professor of the Year.

Sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and administered by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the Professors of the Year awards recognize professors for their influence on teaching and their outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students. Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre is the first Latino from Arizona and one of eight community college professors to win this award, one of the most prestigious and competitive in the Nation.

A fifth generation Arizonan, Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre was born in South Tucson, in a low-income housing project known as La Reforma. Encouraged by his family, who taught him that la educación abre puertas (education opens doors), Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre was in the first graduating class of Pima Community College in 1972. He went on to receive his Bachelor's degree in Humanistic Psychology from the University of Redlands, his Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from California State University, San Bernardino, and his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Union Graduate School.

Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre has been a leader in applying cognitive psychology research to innovative ways of helping students learn and assessing that learning. He has pioneered the Multiple Intelligences/Learning for Understanding (MI/LfU) method of teaching, learning, and assessment, which takes into account the differences in students' learning abilities and offers as many approaches to learning as possible, such as role playing, creative writing, and computer simulations. Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre has received numerous awards and recognitions for his work on MI/LfU and is frequently asked to speak at conferences regarding his innovative approach to teaching.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre for receiving this prestigious award, and to express my gratitude for his innovation and determination in teaching our next generation of leaders. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre

today for this award, which duly recognizes his important work.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the goals and ideals of National Alzheimer's Awareness month. It is during this month that we recognize the millions of Americans who have succumbed to this devastating disease, as well as their loved ones and caretakers. It is also a time to renew our commitment to advancing the research efforts aimed at preventing and combating Alzheimer's disease.

As America's Baby Boomer generation ages, the need to find a cure for this disease is more urgent than ever. There is groundbreaking work being done at our Nation's premier research universities, the National Institutes of Health, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs, to further understand how Alzheimer's affects the brain. We must continue to support this cutting edge research to combat and prevent the debilitating effects of this disease.

Far too many Americans are faced with what Nancy Reagan called the "long, long goodbye." Over 4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and it is estimated that in the next 50 years that number will likely triple. These numbers do not take into account the countless family members, loved ones, and caretakers who shoulder the burden to ensure that patients are able to live out their days with as much dignity and comfort as possible.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MR.
FRANKLYN EUGENE COLE

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit into the RECORD a birthday greeting for my father-in-law, Mr. Franklyn Eugene Cole. I honor Franklyn on his 80th birthday and would like to bring attention to the life Franklyn has lived. Having served his country honorably in the United States Navy during World War II, Franklyn returned to California where he married his wife of 53 years, Rena Cole. Over the years Franklyn built a successful small business and dedicated himself to the education of children while he served on the Jefferson school board for over 30 years. Today, Franklyn lives happily with his wife Rena, two daughters, and five grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Franklyn Cole on his birthday for his unending patriotism and devotion to the American dream.

A TRIBUTE TO TWO BRAVE TOTS, JUWAN BRUNSON, 3 YEARS OLD, RHAQUANN BRUNSON, 4 YEARS OLD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two very special tots, Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson, who had the presence of mind to call 911 to seek assistance from emergency personnel when their grandmother, Mrs. Otisteen Brunson, became dizzy and fell in her house on Park Avenue in Wilson, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I learned that as soon as Mrs. Brunson fell, Rhaquann and Juwan immediately charged to their grandmother's rescue; Rhaquann's tiny fingers happened upon 911 on his grandmother's telephone while little Juwan provided comfort to his grandmother by rubbing her head until the emergency personnel arrived.

Mr. Speaker, this incident stresses the importance of parents, grandparents or older siblings taking the time to familiarize children at a very young age with the proper way to respond in emergency situations. It is critically important for children to know their address, home telephone number and how they should respond when confronted with a catastrophic situation such as illness, a fire or flood.

I applaud Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson for their bravery, but more importantly, I applaud their grandmother, Mrs. Otisteen Brunson, for taking the time to teach these tots how to dial 911.

Mr. Speaker, this special act performed by Mrs. Brunson's grandsons very well may have saved her life, as she had just recently been released from the hospital and she suffers with arthritis, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to two mighty brave tots, Juwan and Rhaquann Brunson. I thank God for the blessings of children.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DAVID BUCKLEY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, while Members of Congress are the ones with our names on the door, I doubt that any of us would disagree with the view that we are only as good as the team we have working with us.

David Buckley has been one such stellar member of my team. As Minority Staff Director of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the last two years, "Buck" or "Mud"—as he is affectionately known—has been an indispensable aide, a calm counselor, and one of the most pleasant people with whom I have ever worked and traveled.

Together, Buck and I have visited with the brave women and men of the intelligence community in some of the most challenging and austere parts of the world.

Together, Buck and I have discussed and analyzed some of the most difficult intelligence

and national security issues confronting our country, and we have worked hard to translate those efforts into policies that will hopefully keep the American people and the world safe in this era of terror.

David Buckley came to the Intelligence Committee with many years of impressive experience in congressional and criminal investigations, counterintelligence and law enforcement. Following 8 years of active duty service in the Air Force, he worked as Chief Investigator for the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, chaired at the time by former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn—one of the most respected voices on national security the Congress has ever produced. He served in the Inspector General's office in the Department of Defense and later as the Assistant Director for Defense, National Security and International Affairs in the Government Accountability Office. Immediately prior to joining the Committee, Buck led a staff of 350 criminal investigators in the Treasury Department's Inspector General for Tax Administration's office. Finally, Buck is also a graduate of the Defense Intelligence Agency's clandestine human intelligence case officer course and the Federal Executive Institute.

Buck leaves Capitol Hill with the affection and respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. He is genetically programmed to be bipartisan and courteous—traits that have served him extremely well and will continue to distinguish him in the workplace. I personally will miss our daily conversations, his unfailingly positive attitude and consummate professionalism.

I wish him and his wonderful family time for dinners at home, church activities, scout trips, and lots of love and laughter. As Buck begins this new chapter in his life, he remains a valued member of "Team Harman."

INTRODUCING "AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS GOVERNANCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006"

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, charitable giving makes a real difference in the lives of people in need, and I have continually sought ways to encourage all Americans to give more. More than a government program or grant or stipend—nothing reflects better the spirit of man caring for his fellow man than the act of freely, benevolently giving out of his own pocket. I truly believe that by increasing charitable giving, we can make a real difference in the world. The Red Cross is the symbol that best represents charitable giving to most Americans. That is why I became involved in this effort to make the American Red Cross a more effective organization, capable of carrying out its mission of meeting critical disaster and emergency needs around the globe. We need to better enable the Red Cross to meet the needs of victims from natural disasters like Katrina, the tsunamis, and the California wildfires.

Yesterday, I introduced the "American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2006." This bill is in large part the result

of a report done by the Red Cross, entitled American Red Cross Governance for the 21st Century, and the hard work and dedication of Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY and his staff. Earlier this year the American Red Cross undertook its first significant review of internal governance since 1947, in an effort to modernize and strengthen its governance structure and practice. In February of this year, the Red Cross challenged its Governance Committee to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of the Board of Governors, the role of management, the relationship with local chapters, and the transparency and accountability of the Red Cross. To conduct this review, the Committee brought together an independent panel of the country's preeminent governance experts and with this panel produced recommendations that were unanimously approved by the Board of Governors in October.

The most important aspects of effectively operating a large corporation are governance, oversight, and accountability. This carefully crafted legislation will modernize the Red Cross governance structure by decreasing the size of the Board of Governors and clarifying their role as being responsible for governance, not day-to-day operations. The bill subjects the Red Cross to enhanced oversight by creating an Office of the Ombudsman that reports annually to Congress, and ensuring that oversight is a primary responsibility of the Board. Through the legislation, the Comptroller General is authorized to review Red Cross involvement in any Federal program or activity, and the bill includes findings that Congress expects the Red Cross to maintain open communications with State regulators of charitable organizations and cooperate with them as necessary. These provisions will help the Red Cross achieve greater transparency and accountability.

Governance, oversight, and accountability are the hallmarks of an efficient corporation that meets the needs of its consumers. In the case of the Red Cross, those needs are great and, unfortunately, continue to grow. But the changes made by the American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act of 2006 will better equip the Red Cross to achieve its mission worldwide. We need to pass this bill as soon as possible to enable the Red Cross to begin making these changes. This will allow the Red Cross to continue to be a major conduit for charitable givers and better utilize the generosity of all Americans.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the American National Red Cross Governance Modernization Act and strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and pass this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF MELANIE CHRISTOPHER

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress comes to an end, we see the closing of an era for News Channel 12 in Jackson, Mississippi. After 25 years in the business, Melanie Christopher—the cheerful and informative co-anchor of WJTV—will be retiring at the end of this year. She will be focusing more time and attention on her husband and family, but we, her viewers, will miss her.

Melanie is one of Jackson's most respected and honored television journalists. This year, she was voted "Newsperson of the Year" by the Mississippi Associated Press, the first female journalist to earn this distinction. Her work has also won awards from the National Commission on Working Women, the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters, and the Associated Press. She has served as emcee of numerous fund raising events on WJTV over the years, including the Children's Miracle Network telecast to benefit Batson Hospital for Children in Jackson.

In recent years, Melanie has been the face of health and medical reporting for WJTV as she informed viewers about the latest treatments, drugs, and how to improve their health.

Melanie serves on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan YMCA and MORA, the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency. She also works with the March of Dimes, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. She is also a board member of Ballet Mississippi and hosts "The Learning Exchange" four times a year on Mississippi ETV.

Mr. Speaker, Melanie Christopher has long been a reliable, trustworthy source of news and information for Mississippians, and her dedication to the community has earned her well deserved honor. She has served in her role as journalist and kept the public trust in that institution. We will miss tuning in to see and hear her on WJTV, but I'm convinced she will continue to benefit her community and all of Mississippi for many years to come.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM
BENEDETTO

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. William Benedetto, who was recently the first Oregonian to be awarded the 2006 U.S. Maritime Literature Award for his book *Sailing Into the Abyss*.

Mr. Benedetto's service to this country began when he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard after finishing high school in Maine in 1946. During his time with the Coast Guard, Mr. Benedetto served on every coast in the areas of search and rescue, port security and with the U.S. Merchant Marine. He was commended by the Coast Guard for performing rescue operations when Hurricane Betsy hit New Orleans in 1965.

Mr. Benedetto retired from the Coast Guard in 1974 after moving to Oregon and beginning his college career. He graduated from Portland State University in 1977 and from the University of Oregon Law School in 1980. After practicing law for 20 years, Mr. Benedetto retired and completed his longtime goal of writing a book. *Sailing Into the Abyss* was published in 2005 and was awarded the 2006 U.S. Maritime Literature Award in June of this year.

I believe I speak for the great State of Oregon when I say we are proud to call Mr. Benedetto a writer, a serviceman, and an honorable citizen of our State and country.

Congratulations Mr. Benedetto.

RECOGNIZING THEODORE JOSEPH
FETTERLING FOR ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Theodore Fetterling, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Theodore has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Theodore has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Theodore has shown.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Theodore for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Theodore in the United States House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER JOHN
GREEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer John Green of the Santa Cruz Police Department. During his tenure, Officer Green served in the Patrol Section as a Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer as a Detective in the Investigation Section and with the Santa Cruz County Narcotics Enforcement Team. He is a man of honor and will be greatly missed.

Officer Green was born in Long Island, New York and grew up in Queens, New York to a family of two sisters and one brother. He enlisted in the Navy in 1975 and was stationed in Jamaica, New York. He was an Aviation Machinist Mate First Class. He later transferred to Moffett Field, California and remained there until his discharge in 1981.

Upon discharge, John worked as a Maintenance Technician for a large corporation in Santa Clara, California before beginning a career in law enforcement when on February 3, 1986, Officer Green was sworn in as a Police Patrol Officer. In 1984, John was hired as a Deputy Sheriff with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department where he worked in the detention facility for 2 years before being hired by the Santa Cruz Police Department in 1986.

John attended several U.S. Navy Aircraft Mechanics schools, studied at Mission College in Santa Clara, California and graduated from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department Police Academy.

John's dedication to the community first began with his service to the United States, but it did not stop there. His desire to become a police officer revolved around his desire to serve the community and its citizens through

law enforcement. He enjoys interacting and working with members of the community and strives to help keep our community safer. Community members describe him as professional, poised, kind, thorough, and having a positive attitude. One person even stated, "His compassion for people, kindness . . . open and friendly attitude puts everyone at ease." Officer Green is a man of integrity and respect.

John has been married for 13 years to his wife Sharon. They have three children; Brandon, 12; Melissa, 20 and Lori, 31. In John's spare time he likes to fish, travel and spend time with friends and family. His retirement plans include more fishing, traveling, and time with friends and family, plus working part time and engaging in volunteer work of some sort.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons it is with great joy that I acknowledge Officer John Green of the Santa Cruz Police Department for 20 years of service to the community.

HONORING JON BUTLER

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jon Butler, a constituent from Pennington, and recognize his great achievements. Mr. Butler has recently received the 2006 Hershey's STRIVE award, National Administrator of the Year from the National Council of Youth Sports.

Mr. Butler has been chosen for this award because he has been a guiding force in his community. He has worked closely with Pop Warner Little Scholars, the largest youth football, cheerleading, and dance program in the United States. Mr. Butler has worked to facilitate children's participation in group sports and activities. These activities engage children in a safe environment and help to teach essential skills and knowledge. Jon now has begun educating Capitol Hill about the value of Pop Warner Little Scholars.

Mr. Butler sets high standards for children and always encourages them to perform at their highest level. Mr. Butler has developed a Coaches Education Training Program to educate adults on the basic fundamentals of youth sports, including sportsmanship, coaching techniques, and respect for youth.

STRIVE, which stands for Sports Teach Respect, Initiative, Values, and Excellence, honors adult leaders who have a passion for helping children, and I am proud to recognize Mr. Jon Butler for receiving this award.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT
JOSHUA DEESE

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true gentleman, wonderful father, and a leader in the Armed Forces, First Lieutenant Joshua Deese, who passed away while on patrol near Kirkuk, Iraq when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb on October

15, 2006. Josh's legacy and contributions will live on in the hearts and minds of many for generations to come, and we are forever grateful for his service to our country.

Born and raised in Rowland, North Carolina, Josh embodied the true spirit of a dedicated and determined leader. He graduated from South Robeson High School in 1999 and joined the Army shortly after his graduation from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in 2003. Described as a natural leader by his family, Josh served as a platoon leader in the infantry and had recently become an executive officer of his unit. He had been deployed to Iraq in August after serving in Afghanistan.

As someone who grew up in a military family, Josh always dreamed of serving in the Army as a paratrooper. In addition to his uncle, Dexter Clark, his older sister Ronnean Collins, and his two grandfathers, served in the military.

Josh loved his family and is survived by his parents, Ronnie and Regina Deese; his sisters, Ronnean Collins and Myra Deese; his 2-year-old son Jacob and his girlfriend Andrea Anderson.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "If we make ourselves worthy of America's ideals, if we do not forget that our nation was founded on the premise that all men are creatures of God's making, the world will come to know that it is free men who carry forward the true promise of human progress and dignity." Indeed, Josh's life was the embodiment of this. He was a man who was known by persons of all races, ages, and religions for both his kind deeds and his loving, unselfish heart.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been the embodiment of Josh's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the tremendous life and legacy of First Lieutenant Joshua Deese.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL LARRY J. DODGEN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LTG Larry J. Dodgen, Commanding General of the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/United States Army Forces Strategic Command. General Dodgen is also the Commander of the Joint Functional Component Command—Integrated Missile Defense.

General Dodgen, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, began his military career after graduating from Louisiana State University in 1972. Over the last 34 years, he has received numerous decorations and awards for his distinguished duty, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to work with General Dodgen during his 2-year tenure as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army

Aviation and Missile Command, which is located at Redstone Arsenal in North Alabama. He served in that capacity from September 2001 through December 2003. During his tenure in North Alabama, General Dodgen worked to ensure that the entire North Alabama defense community was engaged in efforts to meet the future needs of the Army and the warfighter. Our work together continued after General Dodgen assumed the Command at SMDC. I applaud his commitment to the Army, Redstone, and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, after 34 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army, Lieutenant General Dodgen is retiring from active duty. On November 30, 2006, the North Alabama community held a celebration in his honor. I rise today to join them in their tribute and to thank him for his many years of service. I wish General Dodgen the very best for the future.

H.R. 5441, FY2007 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Report.

As a member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, it has been an honor to work with Chairman HAL ROGERS and with our Ranking Member MARTIN SABO who is retiring from Congress at the end of this session.

Congressman SABO has served our country with honor and distinction throughout his distinguished career in the House of Representatives.

I have had the privilege to serve with him on the Budget Committee and for the past 4 years on the Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

As the ranking member on the Budget Committee, MARTIN fought hard for fiscally responsible budgets and funding priorities that would enhance the quality of life of all Americans.

As the ranking member on the Homeland Security Subcommittee, he has been a true champion and advocate for real and effective security for our Nation.

He has led the fight, for example, to protect our ports, our aviation system, and our chemical plants.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman MARTIN SABO is a gentleman Congressman and a respected Member of the House. He has been the voice of calm and reason in a process that has had the potential to be partisan and acrimonious.

It has been a genuine privilege to serve with him in the U.S. House of Representatives and particularly on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

I will miss him, and this House will miss him. MARTIN, I wish you the best in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report before us makes several improvements to the House-passed bill and is a testament to Congressman SABO's leadership. The increased funding for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds is essential to cities like Los Angeles that continue to be potential terrorist targets. UASI grants are badly needed by our local law enforcement officers who are the first line of

defense in a disaster or terrorist attack. These funds are critical to local efforts to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from acts of terrorism or mass disaster. I am happy that the UASI grants are funded in the conference at the House level of \$770 million, \$13 million or 2 percent above 2006.

I am pleased that this conference report has increased funding for fire grants to \$662 million; this is above the House-passed level and \$14 million (2 percent) above 2006. Included in the grant money is \$115 million for hiring additional personnel under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters Act (SAFER Act). These funds are critical to firefighters such as those in my state of California. The funds will help fire services obtain additional personnel, equipment and training to better protect the American public.

The conference report also increases port security grants to \$210 million. This is \$173.25 million above last year's level. While this is an improvement over previous years' funding, it still is insufficient to meet the needs identified by the Coast Guard to adequately secure our ports. With only 6 percent of containers entering our seaports and fewer than half of our ports having radiation portal monitors, much work remains to be done.

I am pleased also that the conference report includes my report language on unaccompanied alien children, detention standards, alternatives to detention, increasing Customs and Border Protection operations at Ontario International Airport, and bill language that prevents the Department of Homeland Security from moving forward with its potentially dangerous plan to privatize key immigration officer positions at the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. I am thankful that this inherently governmental work will continue to remain the responsibility of trained and experienced Federal employees directly accountable to the Department and not to the bottom line of a private company. I am also pleased that Senate language limiting the tenure of the university centers of excellence was not included in the conference report.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I also have a few concerns about this conference report. First, I am disappointed and greatly concerned that this bill's report expresses support for the expansion of the 287(g) program which allows State and local law enforcement officers to perform immigration enforcement functions. Many local law enforcement officers have stated that if they are required to enforce Federal immigration policies it would hamper their ability to successfully fight crime in their respective communities.

Secondly, I am concerned about certain provisions regarding chemical plant security. Preventing the Secretary of Homeland Security to disapprove a security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure, undermines the Secretary's authority to require meaningful and comprehensive security measures.

Furthermore, shielding from public discourse information submitted on security plans, treating the information during court proceedings as if it were classified material, and making scrutiny of the implementation and enforcement of the security requirements the sole purview of the Secretary, prohibits the needed transparency and oversight of a system intended to provide security for all Americans. Finally, I am concerned that allowing the Secretary to approve alternative security programs

established by private sector entities, Federal, State, or local authorities may allow the Secretary to pre-empt State laws that impose more stringent requirements.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of these concerns, I believe the passage of this conference report is important to our efforts to improve the safety of our Nation and the American people. As Chairman ROGERS has said on numerous occasions, those who seek to do us harm only have to do their job right occasionally. We have to do our jobs to protect America 100% of the time. This is a step toward that important goal. I urge my colleagues to support this conference report, and fund these efforts to protect our Nation.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST LADY OF
AZERBAIJAN, DR. MEHRIBAN
ALIYEVA

HON. SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the sentiments of my colleague from Tennessee and also extend the welcome of the House of Representatives to the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Dr. Mehriban Aliyeva, to Washington.

The House of Representatives recognizes the strategic relationship the United States has with Azerbaijan. We know that its troops stand with us in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, that it supports our efforts toward combating global terrorism, and that it plays a key role in providing a secure and dependable energy supply to the West. The Caspian Sea Republic is rapidly modernizing, in large part due to its offshore sector and the opening earlier this year of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan gas pipeline and Baku-Erzurum natural gas pipeline. The country experienced 26 percent growth in 2005 and is expected to surpass 30 percent growth this year. This phenomenal growth is allowing Azerbaijan the opportunity to make significant investments in its future, in many respects. Here in the United States, and I might add in my home district, in particular, we are acutely aware of the importance in investing in our own future through efforts to develop new sources of energy for our own use and those of our global friends.

We also recognize Azerbaijan as an emerging democracy that is working hard to improve the social, political and economic opportunities of its predominately Muslim population. As an aspiring NATO and EU member, as well as a member of the Council of Europe, the largest governmental human rights organization calling for its members to harmonize human rights protection laws and regulations and compelling compliance with them, the success of initiatives in these areas is an example for other Caucasus and Central Asian countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity of the visit of Azerbaijan's First Lady to draw special attention to the strides it is making in areas of particular importance to me as a doctor. Not only is the First Lady of Azerbaijan an elected member of the Azerbaijani Parliament and chair of its Azerbaijan-U.S. Interparliamentary Friendship Working Group, but she is a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the

largest regional nonprofit NGO in the Caucasus, and herself a Moscow-trained ophthalmologist.

As a doctor myself, I am particularly aware of the opportunities and responsibilities that we have as physician leaders to take medical knowledge and apply it in ways that benefit the greater good. I applaud the way Dr. Aliyeva has used her training and respected position for philanthropic and charitable works through the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the areas of education, health care, science, humanitarian aid, international relations and culture. I am aware that the Foundation has been intimately involved in the construction and refurbishment of Azerbaijani hospitals and the international exchange of new medical technologies and commend those efforts.

I've also learned that Houston, too, has played a direct role in advancing medical technology in Azerbaijan and the region through various programs over the years with Texas Medical Center institutions. In 1998, Baylor College of Medicine's world-renowned heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey traveled to Baku to assess the country's cardiovascular needs and the state of its health care. I understand that Dr. DeBakey met with President Aliyev in Baku after having previously met him in Houston, and I would imagine that Mrs. Aliyeva personally appreciates the importance of sharing medical technologies across borders as her husband is a heart attack survivor himself.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to welcome First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva to Washington on behalf of the House of Representatives. I commend a fellow doctor, parliamentarian, wife and mother on her personal commitment to advancing health care and women's initiatives in her country and the Caspian Region. Welcome to Washington, Dr. Aliyeva.

TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, an international symposium on democracy and congress will be held in Taipei, Taiwan from December 8 through December 10. The symposium is sponsored by Democratic Pacific Union (DPU). DPU is a Taipei-based non-governmental organization founded in 2005. Its goal is to enhance dialogues and exchanges among members of parliaments from countries around the Pacific Rim.

This year's symposium will include participants from Chile, Republic of the Philippines, El Salvador, Honduras, Tuvalu, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, the United States, and Republic of China. The symposium's agenda will include panel discussions on the legislative process, presidential systems, congressional elections, and other parliamentary issues.

Mr. Speaker, the symposium will also enable U.S. participants to learn more about Taiwan, our unique bilateral relationship, and regional issues of common interest. I strongly urge my colleagues to support the symposium and to attend the symposium, if at all possible.

I offer my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan Vice President Annette Lu who has been the driving force behind this international symposium on democracy and congress.

IN HONOR OF SALLY LILIENTHAL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, with deep admiration and affection I pay my final respects to a great San Franciscan and global citizen, Sally Lilienthal, who died on Oct. 24 at the age of 87. I join my constituents in honoring her vision, her courage, her leadership and her immense contributions to building a safer and more peaceful world. A magnificent role model, she lived her conscience and practiced her ideals each and every day.

In 1981, at the height of the Cold War—as superpowers stockpiled nuclear weapons, the international arms trade boomed and intercontinental ballistic missiles grew more lethal—Sally Lilienthal founded the Ploughshares Fund. Based in her living room with few resources and her determination to inform the public about the issues and the danger, it became an enormously influential foundation dedicated to the prevention of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of war.

She supported researchers, policy activists, and scientists in the United States and overseas who were trying to change government policies and was a vital figure in shaping the anti-proliferation agenda during the Cold War. As of now, the fund has given away more than \$50 million, mostly for startup research and is the largest grant-making foundation in the United States focused exclusively on peace and security issues.

Sally Ann Lowengart was 12 when her family moved to San Francisco. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and returned to San Francisco in 1940. During the 1950s, she studied sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute. Elegant and artistic, she could have spent her life comfortably moving in San Francisco's art and social circles. Instead, she turned her attention and her might to the issues of war, peace, and social justice.

Together with her husband Philip Lilienthal she founded the Northern California Committee of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in 1970. She served on the regional ACLU board. She cofounded Amnesty International Western Region and was an early supporter of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines that, while she was vice chair, resulted in a global treaty and a Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. In 1990, the United Nations Association bestowed to her its Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award.

In addition to her work for peace, for social justice, and the arts, Sally Lilienthal was an active member of our community supporting progressive policies and politicians. For 30 years I was blessed with her support, her advice, and her friendship.

I extend my deepest sympathy to her children; Laurie Cohen, Liza Pike, Thomas Cohen, Matthew Royce, Sukey Lilienthal, Andrea Lilienthal, and her 11 grandchildren. I hope it is a comfort to her family that so many people mourn her passing and will hold Sally in their hearts forever.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE PATRICK
J. BRENNAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Brennan, Mayor of Merchantville, New Jersey and lifetime resident of New Jersey. Mayor Brennan served on the borough council for four years before becoming mayor.

Mayor Brennan is married to Joan Foley and they have seven children. He was born in Camden, New Jersey, raised in Collingswood and attended Camden Catholic High School, Georgetown University and Rutgers University. After an unsuccessful run for state Assembly, Mayor Brennan was elected mayor, a job he has held for 12 years. Mayor Brennan is also the owner of three companies in Turnersville, NJ.

Mayor Brennan has successfully maintained Merchantville's hometown, laid-back atmosphere while improving, revitalizing, and redeveloping the borough. He has overseen the development of a new senior housing complex, which will make it easier for the elderly to stay in the town while providing housing opportunities for new seniors. He has also overseen the opening of Chestnut Station in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Mayor Brennan for his years of outstanding service to the borough of Merchantville. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING DR. B.J. MISTRY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. B.J. Mistry on her installment as President of the Ninth District Dental Association.

Founded in 1909 and with a membership of close to 1600 dentists, the Ninth District Dental Association is dedicated to advancing the dental profession and promoting public service. I have no doubt that under the leadership and guidance of B.J. Mistry the organization will continue to grow and expand the positive role it plays in our communities.

A graduate of the Government Dental College in Ahmedabad, India, as well as the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Dr. Mistry has played an active role in promoting dentistry and proper dental health throughout her career. She has served as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is a longtime member of the American Dental Association and previously served 5 years on the Board of Governors for the Ninth District Dental Association.

Her installment as the 98th President of the Ninth District Dental Association also marks a historic occasion as she becomes the first woman and first immigrant to lead the organization.

I am honored to work closely with Dr. B.J. Mistry to better our community, and I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing her accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE TULARE
COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the Tulare County Housing Authority in central California. This agency has done an outstanding job of managing their housing units, implementing the Moving to Work program, and empowering low-income families to be self-sufficient.

By way of background, the Tulare County Housing Authority was established in 1945 with their first major project being the development of housing for returning World War II Veterans and their families. Currently, the Tulare County Housing Authority is managing and administering 5,000 units for families, seniors, and the disabled. It is quite clear that the Tulare County Housing Authority has established a solid reputation for providing safe, affordable housing for low income people.

In fact, the Tulare County Housing Authority is performing so well that their Board of Commissioners has made the decision to return their operating subsidies to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2007. It goes to show that a Housing Authority, that pays attention to rent structures and operating costs, can not only enhance the lives of those directly participating, but also benefit taxpayers by operating independent of federal subsidies.

I commend the Tulare County Housing Authority and their Board of Commissioners for their efficient management and sound business practices.

GALT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Galt Christian Church in Galt, Missouri. This church will be celebrating its 125th year anniversary of service to the community on October 15, 2006. Over these past 125 years, this church grew to meet all the needs of its congregation.

As a staple of the community throughout the years, the church has gone through growth and expansion with the Galt community it serves. From humble beginnings, this church is a stabilizing force for this community. Originally, this church was borrowing space from a neighboring church.

The church buildings grew in concert with its congregation. Growing, even taking in two hundred new members in one afternoon, with a large baptism of faith. Finally in 1974, the church's current building was erected to house the growing congregation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Galt Christian Church. The services which they have provided over these 125 years have been fundamental to the growth of this community. Let us use the Galt Christian Church as a powerful example of the lasting commitment to faith.

TRIBUTE TO THE 172ND STRYKER
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today I rise to acknowledge the significant contributions and sacrifices of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Arctic Wolves," based out of Ft. Wainwright, Alaska. I would like to congratulate this elite fighting force of men and women who performed with distinction during an unprecedented 16-month deployment in Iraq.

Few units in the history of the Army have developed such a diverse ability to effectively fight in extreme combat situations. The 172nd formed, lived and trained in the harsh Alaska arctic conditions. Alaskan winters have as many as 21 hours of darkness a day and an average daily temperature of 15 degrees. During the initial Iraq deployment in July/August of 2005, these soldiers faced dry, desert conditions in heat topping 120 degrees, quite different from their original training conditions. The ability to adapt and continue to fight insurgents in any environment is one of the many exceptional traits of these Arctic and now, "Desert Wolves."

During their tour of duty, the Stryker Brigade had an outstanding combat record and an exceptional reputation for their relationship with the Iraqi citizens. During their service, 5 soldiers were Silver Star Receipts, along with the entire 172nd receiving the Valorous Unit Award. The sacrifices made by these soldiers over the last 16 months were tremendous; 26 soldiers lost their lives and another 381 soldiers were wounded, while in Iraq. The commitment of these soldiers to their Nation is admirable. This brigade, despite their extended tour, had the highest reenlistment rate in the Army with over 33 percent of assigned personnel signing up for the second life cycle.

Along with the contributions our Alaskan service members make on a regular basis to the security of this Nation we cannot forget the difficulties their families face during these deployments. Close to 5,000 Alaskan family members of the 172nd had been without their loved ones for 16 months and waited to be back in their arms of their husbands, wives, sons and daughters. While soldiers were overseas, these families in the Fairbanks community pulled together with resounding resolve. Not only am I proud to represent the Arctic Wolves, but I am also proud to represent the great military families of Ft. Wainwright who patiently waited for their brave soldiers to return.

Over the last 4 months, the 172nd has received increased publicity because of their extended deployment, and the families and soldiers were asked to perform duties few are capable of handling. However, I am proud to say that our Arctic Wolves acted with the utmost level of professionalism and heroism on the ground, from the unit commanders to the most junior enlisted ranks. The 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team has made a significant contribution to the proud United States Army military history and I am proud to represent these great American Warriors. On behalf of the state of Alaska, I extend my thanks and appreciation for their exceptional service to this nation. Welcome home, Arctic Wolves.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROIC ACTIONS BY THE STAFF OF JEANNE MOORE, INC., IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the heroic actions of the entire staff at Jeanne Moore, Inc. Daycare in Montgomery, Alabama, and to specifically recognize the bravery of Ms. Jeanne Moore, Ms. Liberty Duke, Ms. Sharon Ware and Ms. Elaine Edwards.

On November 15th, powerful tornados swept through Alabama, including the City of Montgomery. Jeanne Moore, Inc. Daycare was in the path of one of those tornados and was destroyed while the children were on site. According to Jeanne Moore, one four year old described the terrifying experience as, "my school was breaking in two . . ." Responding quickly and professionally, the staff at the daycare did not flee, but made sure the children were safe and covered the children with their own bodies during the brunt of the storm.

According to news reports, Ms. Liberty Duke had two of her own children at the daycare when the storms hit. Instead of going to look for her children, she saved the ones closest to her knowing and trusting that the staff at Jeanne Moore, Inc. would take care of her own. She was right.

In addition, media reports said that Ms. Jeanne Moore recalls seeing other nearby citizens risking their lives when they realized what was happening. Moore said after the storm passed people were running from surrounding businesses to help pull children from the rubble.

Miraculously, no one died and only minor injuries were incurred.

I salute the heroes from that horrible day—everyday Alabamians working together to save innocent children. It is indeed a miracle that no lives were lost, and I hope we will all look to these brave Alabamians as role models for us all.

TRIBUTE TO MR. STEPHEN R. REED

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stephen R. Reed of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who was voted America's number one mayor in the World Mayor 2006 online poll by the City Mayor organization.

Mayor Reed, the 7-term mayor of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the only United States mayor to ever break into the top 3 spots in the annual online contest finishing third in the world. From January to May each year, citizens nominate mayors in the contest then choose from a list of fifty finalists from June to October. This year, over 103,000 people voted giving Mayor Reed more than 7,000 votes.

Under his leadership, the Pennsylvania state capital has been revitalized with the de-

velopment of shops, hotels, and restaurants in the downtown area that once stood virtually vacant; the Harrisburg Senators baseball games and other attractions have revived tourism in the city; the Harrisburg University was established; and graduation rates have increases since Mr. Reed took control of the city school district.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to recognize a man who has dedicated his entire life to the City of Harrisburg, helping hundreds of people in my district, including myself. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Stephen R. Reed on his many years of devoted public service and thank him for the many contributions he has made toward the well being of the citizens of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5466, CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL DESIGNATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 5466, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Designation Act, which traces the 1607 and 1608 water voyages of Captain John Smith to chart the land and waterways of the Chesapeake Bay. The water trail extends approximately 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and in the District of Columbia. The year 2007 will mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and Captain John Smith's monumental voyages of exploration in the Chesapeake Bay, making passage of this legislation and the designation of this route as a national historic trail timely.

Designating this historic trail is an excellent way for Americans to learn about the voyage of Captain John Smith and the valuable resources of the Chesapeake Bay and will help to spur efforts to protect and restore the region's historic and environmental assets. During his voyage, Captain John Smith traveled 45 miles up the Nanticoke River into Delaware. He reached approximately half a mile above Broad Creek, in present-day Sussex County, where he placed a brass cross to symbolize the furthest extent of his exploration. During that time, Captain John Smith met and traded with hundreds of the Kuskarawaok (Nanticoke) Indians who were vital to keeping the Jamestown settlement alive through their knowledge and trade goods.

This project is widely supported in Delaware by Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Delaware Economic Development Office; Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control; Nanticoke Indian Tribe; New Castle County; City of Seaford; Town of Laurel; Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce; Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences; Greater Seaford Chamber of Commerce; Laurel Chamber of Commerce; Southern Delaware Tourism (Sussex County); University of Delaware; the Conservation Fund in Delaware; and the DuPont Corporation.

As an original cosponsor of this legislation and earlier legislation that authorized the feasibility study of the proposed trail by the National Park Service, I fully back this project and look forward to visiting the portion of the trail that extends along the Nanticoke River in Delaware.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on December 5, 2006, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall vote 524. For the record, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION SYMPOSIUM

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize that on December 8, 2006, the Democratic Pacific Union will be hosting an international symposium in Taipei, Taiwan on democracy and commerce. Participants from more than 20 countries will discuss issues related to democracy and the workings of national legislatures, parliaments and congresses.

The Democratic Pacific Union was founded in Taiwan and is committed to the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Pacific Rim. It emphasizes representative government and peaceful resolution of disputes.

I am pleased that the Democratic Pacific Union will foster a discussion about the importance of democracy and the rule of law and also pleased that the open dialogue will foster the possibility of enduring peace.

TRIBUTE TO CARL YAEGER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a medical pioneer, Dr. Carl E. Yaeger, Jr. Dr. Yaeger is the recipient of the Trailblazer Award, a recognition bestowed upon him for his extraordinary contributions to his profession.

Carl Yaeger was born in Hartford, Connecticut, the son of another trailblazer, Dr. Carl Yaeger, Sr. founder of the Yaeger Clinic in Long Island, New York. Carl Jr. came to my home State of South Carolina to practice his profession after graduating from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles College of Chiropractic and Center States College of Physiatrics. In 1956, Dr. Yaeger joined his father in Miami, Florida to open the Yaeger Clinic there. It is one of the oldest African American owned medical facilities in the country.

Over the years, Dr. Yaeger built a tremendous clientele. He has provided health care to

several generations of patients, treated disaster victims and delivered over 400 babies in the clinic's four-bed maternity ward. Some patients were so loyal to Dr. Yaeger they traveled from as far as Georgia and the Bahamas regularly to see him. He counts among his more than 100,000 patients, Muhammad Ali, who came to his clinic while living in Miami in the 1960s. He continued an active Naturopathic and Chiropractic medical practice until 2005. Dr. Yaeger continues to serve on the executive board of the Yaeger Foundation, Inc. and is actively involved in the organization's establishment of the National Medical Museum.

Among Dr. Yaeger's many contributions, was his appointment as Chairman of the Florida Board of Naturopathic Medicine by Governors Rubin Askew and Bob Graham. He also provided internships to aspiring health care professionals and free medical services to indigent patients.

Dr. Yaeger has been the recipient of many other honors including the Florida Chiropractic Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. He has served as the President of the Florida Naturopathic Physicians Association and was a member of the Practice Parameters Advisory Committee of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. Outside his professional affiliations, Dr. Yaeger has been a civil rights activist that helped integrate many of Miami's segregated restaurants and hotels and is a Lifetime Member of the NAACP.

Dr. Yaeger and his late wife, Ollie, raised four children. He is now the proud grandfather of two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Carl Yaeger, Jr. for receiving this distinguished honor. He has given a lifetime of service to the medical community, and has had a tremendous impact on Miami and its people.

HONORING THE ROY CLASSEN FAMILY FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY 2006 OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Roy Classen Family for being selected as the Escambia County 2006 Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. The Classen family has run an extremely successful farm in Northwest Florida for 39 years.

Classen is a Row Crop Producer, growing cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans and wheat on his 515 acre farm in Walnut Hill. He raises cows as well. Classen and his wife, Miriam have been married 40 years and have four children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of work ethic and values has been instilled in the Roy Classen Family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many generations to come.

ST. NICHOLAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, while later this month kids will talk of Santa Claus, today, December 6th, belongs to St. Nicholas. The Christian Bishop. The human Santa Claus.

In Europe, around 300 A.D. St. Nicholas, a devout Christian, gave away all of his possessions. And dedicated his life to helping the poor.

St. Nicholas wearing a long, red robe, would sneak into homes leaving fruits, chocolates, and small presents by the fireplace for families in need.

As word of his deeds spread, eager young children would hang stockings or leave out shoes hoping for a visit from St. Nicholas.

When St. Nicholas died in 343 A.D., an annual day of celebration was declared on the anniversary of his death—December 6th.

Across continents, throughout centuries, acts of generosity continued to be carried out in St. Nicholas' name.

Today the spirit of St. Nicholas is still celebrated.

Children leave their shoes by the door, awaking to the candy and gifts left by St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas Day reminds us of the true meaning of the holiday season . . . giving to others and spreading goodwill among all. It's a good thing.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID E. JANSSEN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. David E. Janssen and to thank him for his 40-year career as a public servant in the State of California. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude for his decades of dedicated public service.

In August 1996, Dr. Janssen became the ninth Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Los Angeles County, a position that was created in 1938. He has been a superb leader and an inspiring example of personal integrity and dedication. He brought a wealth of fiduciary and operational knowledge gained through years of experience to his post that has resulted in prudent recommendations and sound oversight of the County's \$20 billion budget.

As CAO, Dr. Janssen has been responsible for a wide range of duties, including making financial recommendations to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to bring more cost-efficient programs to better serve the public. He has worked closely with the 38 County Departments to make certain that Board policies and priorities have been implemented. He has monitored Countywide spending and recommended departmental budgets to the Board and ensured that Board-approved allocations are not exceeded.

Dr. Janssen has made sure that the Board's legislative and intergovernmental policies and objectives have been coordinated with the Board Offices, the Legislative Strategist, and

the offices in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

Dr. Janssen has coordinated capital projects/debt management, asset management, leasing and space management; administered insurance management programs; coordinated emergency preparedness and cost recovery efforts following major disasters; addressed unincorporated area issues; handled centralized security management for employees and facilities; advised Board offices and departments on international protocol issues; managed the County's employee relations program and compensation systems; coordinated centralized marketing programs; performed demographic and geographic research; coordinated centralized workplace programs, such as ride sharing, saving bonds, charity and volunteers; initiated and promoted activities which provide information about the County to the public; and provided centralized photographic and graphic art services.

Under Dr. Janssen's leadership, the CAO's office initiated an annual Vision Statement for the County that defined "core values" for providing public services, including integrity, commitment, accountability, professionalism, compassion, respect for diversity, and responsiveness. Dr. Janssen was instrumental in implementing a Strategic Plan in conjunction with the Vision Statement, which now includes six goals: Service Excellence; Workforce Excellence; Organizational Effectiveness; Fiscal Responsibility; Children and Families Well-Being; and Community Services.

Dr. Janssen has held memberships in several civic and professional organizations, including the United Way, on which he continues to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, and the Rotary. He also serves on the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning and Development Board of Councilors. In addition, he is a member of the American Society of Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration, which honored him with the 2003 National Public Service Award given for exemplary public service.

Dr. Janssen has served our Nation, our State, and our County with honor and distinction. He is to be commended for his philosophy of open and honest government that provides easy access to information for employees and the public so they can meaningfully participate in the governmental process.

I ask my colleagues to join me and Dr. Janssen's many co-workers, family, friends, and associates in congratulating him on his retirement and wishing him health, happiness, and good fortune in his future endeavors.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT CRITICAL TO AMTRAK

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important institutions in the region I represent in this House is the New England Council. No organization does a better job of advocating in a sensible and reasonable way for the economic interests of our area. The Council is composed largely of businesspeople and it is important to note that

they are businesspeople who recognize that we need both a vibrant private sector and an adequately funded and well run public sector working together to make the kind of progress that will improve the quality of lives of all of those we represent.

James T. Brett is a very able chief executive of the Council. Mr. Brett is a former State Representative who has a very impressive understanding of the importance of this private-public interaction. During our recess, he wrote a very interesting article published in the Patriot Ledger of Massachusetts making in very strong terms the case for significant improvements in the way in which the federal government deals with Amtrak. As Mr. Brett notes, "the regional consequences would be disastrous if Amtrak were unable to operate."

Mr. Brett cogently addresses one of the important issues that will be facing us when we convene for the 110th Congress, and I ask that his important article be printed here so that Members will have the benefit of this information as we do so.

[From the Patriot Ledger]

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT CRITICAL TO AMTRAK
(By James T. Brett)

Passenger rail is vital to our quality of life and economy in New England, where rail is an integral part of the region's multi-modal transportation system and relied on by so many for daily commuting and business travel.

Yet the future of Amtrak, including the future of the nation's busiest rail route—the Northeast Corridor—will be affected in the coming weeks as Congress works to finalize spending bills before the end of the session.

In July, the full Senate Committee on Appropriations approved \$1.4 billion in funding for Amtrak in the Senate Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill for the 2007 fiscal year, an increase over the current \$1.3 billion allocation, and well above the President's budget request of \$900 million. In June, the House passed its Transportation-Treasury bill for the 2007 fiscal year, which funds Amtrak at \$1.14 billion.

It is critical that Congress approve adequate funding for Amtrak in the upcoming appropriations debate. A 2007 funding level for Amtrak that, at the very least, meets its 2006 of \$1.3 billion will allow Amtrak to continue to operate with some infrastructure investment.

Over the last several years, Amtrak has implemented many reforms, modified service and reduced personnel. More than 14 million people rode Amtrak trains in the Northeast last year and Amtrak had its third straight year of record ridership. In addition, Amtrak has continued its efforts to implement a capital investment plan to bring its infrastructure closer to a state of good repair.

Despite the progress, much important work still needs to be done. In this year's fiscal 2007 request, Amtrak cited Northeast Corridor infrastructure improvements as a critical priority. These include three major bridges in Connecticut—the Thames River, the Niantic River and the Connecticut River Bridges—which date back to the turn of the century and need to be replaced. Forty Amtrak trains run over these bridges daily, providing service between New York and Boston.

Other projects, cited by Amtrak, include the replacement of wood ties on main tracks; the rehabilitation or replacement of much of the overhead catenary system that supplies power; the replacement of major portions of the power supply systems; and the upgrading of interlockings and signal systems.

Amtrak is a vital transportation link for millions of New Englanders. At a time when

our highways are increasingly congested, the regional consequences would be disastrous if Amtrak were unable to operate. Amtrak serves hundreds of thousands of commuter rail riders and represents thousands of jobs in the region.

And highway congestion is not a problem that is going away anytime soon. A new study by the nonprofit think tank the Reason Foundation reported this summer that traffic delays will increase 65 percent and the number of congested lane-miles on urban roads will rise 50 percent over the next 25 years. Even in smaller cities, traffic congestion is expected to worsen substantially over the next two decades. In our region, Massachusetts and Connecticut are both ranked in the top 25 of states that will have the most congested lane miles by 2030.

A safe, reliable passenger rail system is vital to managing transportation in the Northeast. The region's ability to sustain and enhance its economic growth and remain competitive is linked to an efficient regional transportation system which includes intercity passenger rail. Government support is critical to Amtrak's survival. And it is important that Congress consider these economic factors as they debate funding for Amtrak.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'S PRINTING AND DESIGN OFFICE STAFF FOR ITS OUTSTANDING AND PROFESSIONAL EFFORT IN PRESENTING THE VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding and professional effort of the staff working in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Printing and Design Office for their high quality work, and contribution to NASA's overall mission. Throughout the course of a legislative cycle, NASA officials meet with Members of Congress and their staff via meetings, briefings and Congressional Hearings. The effectiveness of these interactions is directly attributed to the quality of the products developed by the staff of NASA's Printing and Design Office. Under the outstanding leadership and commitment of the Printing and Design staff, the Agency has been prepared and able to present professional briefing charts, Congressional testimony, posters and publications to the United States Congress in an exemplary manner.

The staff includes: the Head of Printing and Design Office, Michael Crnkovic; the Printing Officer, Stanley Artis; the Printing Specialist, Jeffrey McLean; the Customer Service personnel, Frantz Casmir; the Duplication Specialists, Carl Hammond and Ondray Mackin; and, the Distribution Clerk, Carl Paul. In addition, the competent, professional and expert Exhibit Design Team, consisting of Michael Barnes, Ray Brown and Steve Schaeberle, has enabled NASA to present montages depicting various Space Shuttle missions to Members of Congress that are proudly displayed and observed by all who visit these Members' offices.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing NASA's Printing and Design Team for its role in presenting the Vision for Space Exploration.

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN M. BRIAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian M. Brian of Camden, Arkansas, who died on October 22, 2006, while working in Iraq as a police trainer. Brian M. Brian was 58 years old when the military convoy he was riding in was attacked. Brian M. Brian was working outside of Baghdad as an international police liaison officer.

Before going to Iraq, Brian worked for the Ouachita County Sheriff's Department for 13 years. Brian held many roles within the department and left the office with the rank Captain. In 2005, he became an instructor at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy. Brian was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served from 1968 to 1971, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. While not serving our state and our country, Brian enjoyed helping people and animals in his community who were in need of shelter, food or help.

Brian M. Brian gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a son, and a husband. My deepest condolences go out to his wife Connie. He will be missed by his family, his community and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. I will continue to keep Brian M. Brian and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
R.C. CRAFT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Baldwin County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. R.C. Craft, a devoted family man and dedicated community leader.

A veteran of World War II, R.C. moved to Gulf Shores from Fort Myers, Florida in 1954, where he parlayed 16 years in the nursery flower business with the H. L. Hobbs Co. into his own business growing gladioli.

After 10 years, R.C. and his only child, Robert, went into the sod business, which continues to this day. By the late 1980s, the company diversified into championship golf courses. They opened Cotton Creek, designed by golfing great Arnold Palmer, as well as Cypress Bend and The Woodlands course.

R.C. was a very personable man who loved to tell stories, but he was also a firm believer in hard work and determination. He was the type of man who would look you in the eye and firmly shake your hand when the deal was done. That was how he did business, and a successful businessman he was.

In 2001, the Baldwin County Commission honored R.C.'s many contributions to the

county as a citizen and a businessman. In 2003, he received the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce Walton M. Vines Free Enterprise Award. Additionally, R.C. was a founding member of the Gulf Shores Golf Club and served as chairman of the Gulf Shores Utility Board. His contributions to Baldwin County and the state of Alabama will be long remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama.

R.C. Craft loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 56 years, Jane Wingo Craft; his son, Robert Craft; his sister, Janie Johnson; two grandchildren; as well as countless friends and admirers that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID
HUGHEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Hughey for his continued dedication and volunteer work to his community.

This year, David was named Volunteer Supervisor of the Year at the Interagency Volunteer Recognition Program Ceremony. He was nominated for the award by Lake Mead National Recreation Area Superintendent Bill Dickinson for his dedication to the volunteer program, park visitors, and the recreation area in general. The program is coordinated by employees from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service, aimed at improving and maintaining public lands in Southern Nevada.

David supervises about 25 volunteers and has helped the volunteer program grow throughout the years. He is known for treating his volunteers with respect and kindness while maintaining his post. He holds weekly staff meetings in order to keep everyone informed, organizes monthly recognition barbecues for the volunteers, ensures that they have the proper training and tools necessary, and allows himself to be available to his volunteers at all times.

Maintenance around the park is a high priority for David. He's involved with several of the beach and park clean up events, including the Great American Clean-Up, National Public Lands Day, Eagle Scouts Projects, and other corporate and civic group sponsored public service works. David and volunteers also help rake the campgrounds, work on irrigation systems, plant and prune trees, and provide information to visitors about the park. Not only does he do this, but he also coordinates the day-to-day maintenance work of paid employees and volunteers. "We are fortunate to have dedicated employees like David Hughey on our staff," said Superintendent Dickinson.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Mr. David Hughey for his selfless devotion and undying enthusiasm to his staff and

to the community that frequents his park. I commend him for all his efforts and wish him luck with all his future endeavors.

HONORING MAJOR DAVID HAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Major David Han upon his retirement from the United States Marine Corps after 22 years of dedicated service. Major Han is a constituent who lives in Ashburn, Virginia. He spent 12 years as an enlisted Marine and another 10 years as an officer, completing assignments across the country, including his last assignment in our Nation's capital.

During Major Han's last 2 years of service in Washington, DC, he has been the administration officer in the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity he was able to support members of Congress and congressional committees, working on issues related to the Marine Corps and national security. During this time, Major Han volunteered to deploy to Iraq, serving with II Marine Expeditionary Force Forward at Camp Fallujah. While at Camp Fallujah he served as a protocol officer, coordinating, planning, and executing over 150 visits to USMC units in Iraq by generals, foreign dignitaries, congressional delegations, the vice president, and the secretary of defense.

These assignments are only a small glimpse of Major Han's many accomplishments as a Marine. I have no doubt that Major Han has made a lasting contribution in the capability of today's Marine Corps and has helped to shape the future of the Marines. His performance and dedication to duty over his 22-year career has been exemplary. I want to take this opportunity to wish him, his wife Cassandra, and two daughters, Anna and Madeleine, all the best as he retires from the Marine Corps. Semper Fi!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF FIRST HOUSES,
THE BIRTHPLACE OF PUBLIC
HOUSING IN THE UNITED
STATES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to First Houses, the first public housing development in the United States. This year, the New York City Housing Authority is celebrating the 70th anniversary of First Houses and the worthy ideals which it symbolizes.

By creating the New York City Housing Authority seven decades ago, the leaders of our Nation's greatest metropolis launched an ambitious initiative to improve the lives of America's least privileged members by providing affordable housing that met high standards of sanitation, health and safety. The first fruit of that noble undertaking, the watershed First Houses development, was created by rehabilitating a series of tenements built in 1846.

For the first time in American history, First Houses proved that government could provide a practical remedy to the shortage of decent affordable housing confronting citizens of low and moderate incomes. By removing every third building of those original tenements to expand light, air, and open space, combining backyards, and constructing a welcoming common courtyard and recreational area, those visionary civic leaders created in First Houses a vibrant and livable public housing development that became a model for the Nation.

In a tribute to the momentous achievement marked by the opening of First Houses, the inaugural celebration of the complex was attended by two great New Yorkers and great Americans, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.

Today, the approximately 174 authorized residents of First Houses live in eight attractive four- and five-story buildings located on 1.23 acres of land lying between East 2nd and East 3rd Streets and Avenue A and First Avenue on Manhattan's Lower East Side in New York's Fourteenth Congressional District, which I am privileged to represent in this House.

Indeed, as is fitting for New York, traditionally a beacon of progressive ideals of social reform, First Houses also marked the first housing initiative of the newly founded New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the oldest public housing agency in the continent of North America. Throughout its history, the NYCHA has also been the largest public housing authority on the continent. Today it administers 344 public housing developments containing 2,686 buildings housing approximately 412,281 authorized residents in 179,025 different apartments. Today, more than one in twenty New Yorkers lives in public housing managed by the NYCHA, enough to constitute the population of the Nation's 44th largest city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic 70th anniversary of First Houses, in congratulating Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York City Housing Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez for their dedication to maintaining and expanding New York City's affordable housing, and in recognizing the tremendous contributions to the people of the city of New York and our Nation made by the hard-working men and women of the New York City Housing Authority throughout its proud 70-year history.

CONGRATULATING J.W. SALES
FOR 51 YEARS OF AUTOMOBILE
SALES IN MONROEVILLE, ALA-
BAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. J.W. Sales on 51 years of automobile sales and to recognize Sales Ford in Monroeville, Alabama, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

J.W. Sales has been a vital member of the Monroeville, Alabama, community all of his life. He began his career selling automobiles in Mobile in 1954. In 1966, he purchased the

Ford dealership in Monroeville, and he opened Sales Ford Lincoln Mercury in Grove Hill in 2002.

In addition to his professional successes, J.W. has long been an active supporter of numerous community organizations. He served as governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis and was one of the seven trustees on the Kiwanis International Board of Directors.

He is also active in the Monroeville Chamber of Commerce and has served on the board of directors of the University of Mobile. J.W. has also been an active deacon of the First Baptist Church in Monroeville.

Mr. Speaker, I commend J.W. Sales for his long-standing commitment to the community and for his many professional achievements. I know his wife, Wendy, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and in celebrating this latest milestone.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND FRED
RANGLES

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of recognizing a dear friend of mine. Reverend Fred Randles of Sulphur Springs, who is retiring as minister of music after serving the church and community for the past 25 years.

Reverend Randles has dedicated his life to making music, for which he has received certificates of appreciation from 4 U.S. Presidents and the U.S. Congress. Additionally, the governments of Cozumel, Mexico, Bahamas, and the entertainment division of Disney World have recognized him.

His youth choirs have toured extensively, singing throughout the U.S. and in Ireland, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Bahamas as well as on a number of cruise ships. The youth choir under his direction has also appeared on Good Morning America and the Early Show on CBS.

Reverend Randles also has enjoyed many achievements with the senior adult choir known as the Silvertone Choir. Under his direction, this group has recorded for Benson Music Company and performed at a variety of conventions and conferences. They have had the privilege to perform at conferences in Glorieta, New Mexico; Ridgecrest, North Carolina; and Williamsburg, Virginia.

A particularly noteworthy accomplishment is Rev. Randles' assistance in originating the Northeast Texas Symphony in conjunction with Sarah Smith, Scott York, and others from Texas A&M Commerce. This symphonic group performed its first concert at First Baptist Church and has grown considerably with his assistance.

Reverend Randles has been asked to conduct funeral services of more than 1000 people and officiate, sing for or do both at the wedding ceremonies of more than 200 couples. He has also provided music for a variety of functions, including the Dairy Festival, the annual Hospital Christmas Tree lighting, baseball games, and area worship services.

Reverend Randles is married to Jane and they have one daughter, Natalie, who is mar-

ried to Darren Brown. Olivia Brown is their granddaughter and a second grandchild is on the way.

Due in no small part to Natalie's violin playing, Jane has worked to bring a beginning strings program to the Sulphur Springs I.S.D. This program has brought orchestral music to the lives of children who otherwise would not have had the opportunity.

Rev. Randles has made a lasting contribution to his community, and in celebrating his retirement, I join his family, church, and friends in expressing appreciation for the many ways he has shared his music, faith, and fellowship. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Rev. Fred Randles for his many years of service and wishing him well in his retirement years.

DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on August 14, 2006, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Democratic Pacific Union was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan. The ceremony drew 76 dignitaries from 23 countries, including the presidents and vice presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Palau.

The Democratic Pacific Union's goal is to promote democracy and encourage cooperation among its 28 member democracies. So far, the Union has planned regular regional meetings in the East and the West Pacific regions, initiated the Pacific Economic Advisory Group and the Pacific Congressional Caucus, established a training program for typhoon and flood disaster reduction, offered scholarships for students to study in Taiwan, planned a Pacific university network in Taiwan, and invited women to Taiwan to discuss women issues in the Pacific region.

On December 8–10, the Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus will be holding a special symposium in Taipei, Taiwan. The symposium will examine critical issues such as the legislature and democracy, the legislature and electoral process, and the legislature and campaign finance. Fifty or more legislators from DPU's member states will be invited. U.S. lawmakers are especially welcome to attend this symposium.

We should give encouragement to the leaders of the Democratic Pacific Union by endorsing its goals for democratic and economic cooperation in the Pacific region. I am certain that the Union will attract more members and win even wider international attention and recognition in the months and years ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUTTON AREA COMMUNITY, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, for three decades, Sutton Area Community, Inc., has

served as the voice of New Yorkers residing on the East Side of Manhattan between 52nd and 59th Street, from Second Avenue to the East River. Founded to maintain and improve the quality of life in that historic neighborhood, Sutton Area Community (SAC) has united area residents on a myriad of concerns and its ranks now include over 2000 dues-paying members. On October 22nd, SAC celebrated its thirtieth anniversary at the internationally renowned Perigord restaurant, at which its members honored their community's extraordinarily dedicated and effective representative in the New York State Assembly, the Honorable Jonathan Bing.

The dedicated members of Sutton Area Community, currently led by the estimable Mary Clare Bergin, have been at the forefront of efforts the surrounding community. Its volunteers have spearheaded local beautification initiatives. Thanks to the tireless efforts of SAC's members, seasonal planting and iron fence tree enclosures have been installed between Sutton Place and Second Avenue, and dozens of trees have been planted on and around First Avenue. In addition, SAC members serve as conscientious caretakers of three "pocket" parks at 54th, 57th and 58th streets. The carefully maintained greenery and flowers have created a ripple effect, inspiring owners and residents of neighboring buildings to make improvements to their own landscaping, making a community already renowned for its quiet elegance a charm an even more idyllic oasis for residents and visitors alike.

The tranquil quality of life of Sutton Place and its environs is rendered even more remarkable for its proximity to midtown Manhattan, the most bustling and thriving commercial district in the entire United States. A constant concern for Sutton Area Community residents is the considerable traffic congestion due to the neighborhood's close proximity to the Queensborough Bridge and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive. After the New York City Department of Transportation made an ill-considered decision to close the 48th street ramp onto the FDR Drive, forcing over tens of thousands of motorists onto local streets, SAC worked with elected officials and civic organizations to overturn this ill-considered decision. Their persuasive and persistent lobbying ultimately won the day, and the ramp was reopened.

In addition, the members of Sutton Area Community successfully fought a proposal to eliminate local bus stops. Such a move would have had very negative consequences on the neighborhood's significant population of seniors, and I was pleased to be joined with SAC members, other elected officials and Manhattan Community Board 6 to urge successfully that the bus stops be restored. It is a testament to SAC and the strength of their organization that the stops remained in place.

Armed with the knowledge that clean and safe streets are keys to maintaining the quality of life in an intense urban environment, SAC works closely with the 17th Precinct of the New York Police Department. Its members have formed one of the largest groups of volunteer "blockwatchers" in New York City. SAC also has contracted with the Doe Fund, a not-for-profit organization that provides jobs for the homeless, to improve sweeping and sanitation of the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting the tremendous

contributions to the civic life of New York City made by the members of the Sutton Area Community and their Assemblymember, Jonathan Bing, and in wishing them continued success at their vital mission in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF FRANK ANTHONY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Frank Anthony. Mr. Anthony is a guiding light to the youth and educators of Arkansas. On Novem-

ber 28th he was honored as the Arkansas Association of Education Administrator's (AAEA) 2006–2007 Superintendent of the Year.

The AAEA is an umbrella organization of ten constituent educational administrator groups. The organization was founded in 1976 and currently represents more than 2,800 members.

Frank Anthony is the Superintendent of the Pine Bluff School District and has dedicated his life to education. Before excelling in his current position, Mr. Anthony served the Arkansas State Department of Education and the school districts of Eudora, Warren, Wilmot and Parkdale. Mr. Anthony started out his career as a Math teacher and basketball coach and immediately made a difference in the lives of the students and fellow faculty members.

Along with serving his school district, Mr. Anthony also serves the community by sitting on numerous boards and commissions such as the United Way and Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce.

Frank Anthony's dedication to making our state a better place to live, through his work as a public school educator, should serve as an example and an inspiration for us all.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly recognize Frank Anthony before the United States Congress for his outstanding contributions to the field of education and to the communities and lives he has touched in Arkansas. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Anthony on his honor of being named Arkansas's Superintendent of the Year.