

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL PENSION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this very important issue. As you know, my constituents have been directly impacted by the very issue we are voting on today. The previous Congressman from my great Congressional district, Randy Cunningham, used this Chamber and his position to line his pockets with bribe money from lobbyists. He violated the trust of his constituents and his colleagues with his behavior, tarnishing this institution. Unfortunately, the taxpayers will be forced to pay a sizeable pension to him every year.

I think this legislation is an important first step in denying pensions to Members of Congress who abuse the trust of the people. However, I want to note that this legislation did not go far enough.

First, it has a 2-year implementation window, which would allow any Member convicted over the next two years to maintain their pension. I think this is the wrong message to send. If it was constitutional, I would support retroactively taking away the pensions of convicted felons such as Dan Rostenkowski and Randy Cunningham.

Additionally, I think H.R. 476 does not go far enough in detailing the types of crimes that would trigger these provisions. That is why I am a strong supporter and cosponsor of H.R. 14, sponsored by Congressman MARK KIRK. His legislation, the Congressional Integrity Act, would deny a Congressional pension to any Member convicted, and denied a final appeal, for a much more expansive number of crimes directly related to the official duties of a Member of Congress.

This legislation is long overdue. I was proud to support a similar measure, H.R. 4011, in the 104th Congress along with many of my Democratic and Republican colleagues, including current Speaker NANCY PELOSI and our former Speaker DENNIS HASTERT.

I call on Speaker PELOSI to widen the scope of this legislation to help us regain the trust of the American people and withhold the pensions of those who violated that trust.

Furthermore, I call on Speaker PELOSI to consider important legislation to develop stricter, more transparent regulations on pork-barrel spending, also known as "airdropped" earmarking. I was proud to introduce legislation that would ban the practice of slipping earmarks into Conference reports that have not been approved by either the House or the Senate previously. These items do not have the benefit of being debated in Committee or on the floor of the House of Representatives. By requiring the Conference Committees to only consider items that were passed by one of the Chambers; we can ensure that all

projects were examined in the light of day, not the backrooms of Congress.

I ask for consideration of this important provision.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR CURT ANDRE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Curt Andre for his many years of service and leadership to the City of Turlock and greater Central Valley. Mayor Andre has served as the Mayor of Turlock for an unprecedented seventeen years and as the Chairman of Turlock's Planning Commission for the previous eight years.

Mayor Andre was born and raised in Turlock and—after earning a degree in optometry from the University of California at Berkeley—he returned to Turlock to start his profession. Mayor Andre has since served as the President of Statesmen of Stanislaus, the President of Turlock's Active 20–30 Club, a member of the United States Conference of Mayors, and a member of the California State University Advisory Board.

In addition to these roles, Mayor Andre has served as the Chairman of the Turlock Planning Commission and Mayor of Turlock for a total of twenty-nine. Overseeing the growth of a town from roughly 30,000 to over 70,000, Mayor Andre has been a much needed element of consistency in Turlock's time of transition.

For his commitment to a better quality of life in Turlock, Mayor Andre has received the Paul Harris Award, the Distinguished Public Service Award from Rotary District 5220, the 2004 Citizen of the Year Award from the Turlock Chamber of Commerce, and the 2006 Outstanding Community Leader from the California State University at Stanislaus.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor Andre for his many years of service and dedication to the residents of Turlock. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him many years of continued happiness and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on January 22, 2007, due to flight delays, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 43, 44, 45, and 46. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 43, yea; rollcall No. 44, yea; rollcall No. 45, yea; rollcall No. 46, yea.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join my colleagues in the House of Representatives in unanimously passing H. Res. 51 honoring the contributions of America's Catholic Schools.

As a product of Catholic schools, I know first-hand the value of a Catholic education. Through grade school, high school, college, and law school, my Catholic schooling not only prepared me for academic success, but also taught me to serve my community by sharing my Catholic values. Thus, it is no surprise that a Catholic education also played a critical role in the intellectual and spiritual growth of my own children as well.

Today, America's Catholic schools are widely recognized among the best academic institutions in the country. From pre-schools to graduate schools, Catholic intuitions prepare nearly 2.4 million young men and women for meaningful lives rooted in spirituality, respect for others, and a sense of social responsibility.

It gives me great confidence to know that America's Catholic schools are preparing a new generation equipped with the knowledge and values to serve our communities and to meet the many challenges present in our world. On behalf of myself and my family, I want to commend the thousands of dedicated servants that make Catholic education a foundation for a better today and tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize Minnesota Public Radio's 40 years of broadcasting excellence.

Minnesota Public Radio—or simply "MPR" as it is known to its many members and fans—began humbly on January 22nd, 1967, as a small radio station at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Thanks to the extraordinary vision and dogged determination of then-recent graduate Bill Kling (now MPR President) and future college president Father Colman Barry, that little college radio station has grown into a 37-station network that serves nearly 800,000 every day with its programming for radio, Internet and in-person audiences. Nationally, MPR reaches more than 14 million people through original programs produced by American Public Media.

• 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.

Throughout the years, MPR has earned distinction as one of the nation's finest public radio systems, offering world-class news and cultural programming. Its vision has always included strengthening radio nationally. In 1970, MPR helped provide the leadership to found National Public Radio, with President Kling serving on NPR's first board of directors. In 1982, MPR launched American Public Radio and its corporate parent (later renamed American Public Media), which distributes Minnesota Public Radio programming, to affiliate stations nationwide.

One of MPR's most formative years was 1974, when a talented young writer who was working as a classical music host at the station began a regular Saturday night variety show. The host was Garrison Keillor, the show "A Prairie Home Companion," and the rest was history. From its home in St. Paul's Fitzgerald Theater, and on the road, "A Prairie Home Companion" continues to entertain listeners every Saturday night on MPR and on public radio stations across America.

MPR has come a long way since its college radio station beginnings. It continues to expand and enhance its programming to serve a diverse, dynamic and growing audience. In recent years, it has launched "The Current," a critically acclaimed music service helping to showcase local talent in addition to its news and information and classical music services. In 2006, MPR completed a \$46 million capital campaign that has enlarged its St. Paul headquarters, adding to the network's ability to serve the public through high-quality programming.

MPR news and information earns its reputation as "the most trusted news source" for Minnesotans daily with its thorough and thoughtful coverage and timely reporting. This trust is exemplified through MPR's partnership with the State of Minnesota to maintain and improve the technical infrastructure to the state's Emergency Alert System (EAS). In addition, MPR serves as the backbone of the state's AMBER Alert child abduction warning system.

I join my fellow Minnesotans who are so proud of MPR's commitment to its audience. We rely on MPR for news without spin, for high quality music and cultural programming. Most of all, we appreciate the people who make MPR great. They have built a strong foundation that will ensure that MPR will be serving listeners for decades to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Minnesota Public Radio for its contributions to Minnesota and the nation throughout its first 40 years on the air.

MS. NORA ROCK

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend a pioneer of Brownsville, Texas, on the occasion, of her 105th birthday.

Nora Rock will celebrate that birthday tomorrow, and her name belies her strength. She is a rock. That also describes her faith in the Lord; He is her rock.

Her family came to Brownsville in the aftermath of the Civil War. Her grandfather was

part of the Union Army occupying Brownsville in the 1860s.

She is an amazing woman, a quiet, simple lady whose love in life is service to others. She believes her longevity is a gift from God, one which she repays by spending her long life helping others in her community.

She remembers going to military band concerts at Fort Brown—the Army fort around which Brownsville grew—as a teenager during World War I, and remembers the daily cannon firings during those troubled times.

Ms. Rock is a very nice and humble lady who is wholly devoted to her faith and the South Texas community. Her way is to help others in a private way, not a public way to win accolades. The look of happiness in the eyes of another is all the tribute she would want or need.

She is an extraordinary American who has seen the history of our Nation in the 20th Century from the front row. She says she is still so vibrant after 100 years because the Lord has seen fit to keep her on the earth, but also—she says with a twinkle in her eyes—because she loves chocolate.

Madam Speaker, I would imagine she would not have expected for a woman to occupy the Speaker's Chair for the U.S. House of Representatives during her lifetime; we are both glad to have the opportunity to see you there.

I ask Speaker PELOSI, and our colleagues, to join me in commending the long and beautiful life of Nora Rock.

“SUPPORT OUR TROOPS” DAY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, one year ago I came across a young high school student who had a brilliant and patriotic idea. Alexandra McGregor set out to establish a "Support Our Troops" Day and for the second year in a row I am introducing a resolution inspired by Alexandra.

A year ago, my office got word of Alexandra's extraordinary effort to contact, local, State, and Federal officials in support of a national "Support Our Troops" Day. Alexandra even went as far as to write to one school in each State encouraging them to participate in a moment of silence on March 26th, her grandfather's birthday, who was an American soldier.

Every year, this House celebrates Memorial Day; in a month we will take time out of the schedule to celebrate our Presidents, and further down the road we will honor our veterans; but never do we honor our active-duty military men and women who are protecting our freedom today.

With inspiration from Alexandra, my resolution encourages Americans to participate in a moment of silence on March 26th to think about those who are serving this country both at home and abroad.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT
OF 2007

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns with the College Student Relief Act, which passed the House on January 17, 2007.

As the author, while a Michigan State Senator, of legislation creating the Michigan Education Savings Plan, my commitment to helping families afford college has been a long-standing priority of my public service tenure. In fact, this program has helped thousands of Michigan families save for college expenses as well over 100,000 accounts have been opened since the program's inception.

Unfortunately, for many families, their ability to save cannot keep pace with the rising costs of post-secondary education. For these families, student loans represent an integral piece to the higher education puzzle, which is why we, as policymakers, must ensure that our actions meet the twin goals of reducing the cost of, and increasing access to, a college education,

The College Student Relief Act represents a short-term solution for student loan relief for a very specific group of student borrowers. This legislation reduces the student loan rate on only subsidized Stafford loans. It does not reduce the rates of undergraduate students borrowing from unsubsidized Stafford loans, nor does it provide relief to graduate students. Furthermore, this legislation does not permanently reduce student loan rates but cuts rates over five years, after which point they will go back to a higher interest rate, in effect providing only six months of relief.

Lastly, I believe students must be provided with borrowing choices, and they should be able to borrow from lenders who provide the most affordable option for them and their families. A competitive student loan marketplace is central to lowering the longterm costs associated with higher education.

Rest assured, I will continue to work in Congress, must work, to help make college more affordable and attainable for every American family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
RETIREMENT OF MR. PAT LANE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Pat Lane, on the occasion of his retirement from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company after more than 40 years of dedicated service. Pat will be greatly missed, and I join his many friends and co-workers with whom he served in wishing him the best of luck in the next phase of his life.

Pat began his long and distinguished career with then-General Dynamics Fort Worth Division in 1966. He was elected by his peers as the union representative for his department, a position he served in until 1974. He was then elected to the office of Business Representative for International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District Lodge 776.

Since 1978, Pat has served as President and Directing Business Representative for the District Lodge. In this role, Pat has had the responsibility of negotiating multiple labor agreements and enforcing 61 labor agreements with employers. He also served 10,000 members representing nineteen local lodges in the District. Finally, he had the full responsibility of overseeing and supervising a full staff of elected business representatives and office employees.

Particularly noteworthy is Pat's work in establishing a Joint Apprenticeship Program between General Dynamics and District Lodge 776, which has continued under Lockheed Martin. This model program successfully trained highly skilled aircraft tooling personnel with a high completion rate. I am most familiar with Pat's outstanding work with the Community Learning Center in Fort Worth. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Learning Center which provides skills training to unemployed, underemployed and displaced workers.

Pat Lane has also been extremely active in the Fort Worth community. He served on the Texas Council on Workforce and Economic Competitiveness for four years. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors for the Tarrant County United Way as well as the Tarrant County Junior College as a labor consultant. Furthermore, he has devoted his time as a youth baseball coach and Boy Scouts Leader.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mr. Pat Lane to the Fort Worth community. As he retires, I join his friends and family in wishing him a long and happy retirement. He has certainly earned it.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
KEELEY DORSEY, A STUDENT AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH
FLORIDA

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to recognize the life of a talented student at the University of South Florida, Keeley Dorsey. I know my colleagues join with me in extending their sincere condolences to Keeley's family and friends who knew him well and loved him deeply.

The USF family lost a valued member of its community last Wednesday afternoon. Unfortunately, during a routine workout session with his fellow football team members, Keeley passed out, and efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. He was only 19 years old, but even during his short time among us, Keeley made a huge impact on those around him and set a sterling example for what hard work and perseverance can achieve.

Keeley was a star football player at Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, strong enough to play three positions—quarterback, tailback and wide receiver. As he excelled on the football field, he worked just as diligently on his academics and gained admission to USF. In Keeley's first football game last fall, he ran 52 yards for a touchdown. Over the course of the season, his talent on the field showed, and

coaches were certain that Keeley, with his positive attitude and outstanding leadership skills, would be a cornerstone of the next season's football team. He had even been selected to be a host for visiting high school recruits, a duty usually carried out only by upperclassmen.

As I join with Keeley's family and friends in mourning a life lost so young, I know that they are proud of him and of the accomplishments he made in his 19 years. I know the University of South Florida family will remember him always.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD RESERVIST
SPRING DE HAVILAND

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and thank retiring United States Coast Guard Reserve Public Affairs Specialist First Class Spring de Haviland for her exemplary service to our Nation.

Specialist First Class de Haviland retired from the United States Coast Guard Reserves on January 11, 2007 after 30 years of service that began on January 26, 1977. She served at a number of duty stations, including San Pedro, California, Valdez, Alaska, Grand Haven, Michigan, Kodiak Island, Alaska, Washington, D.C. United States Coast Guard Headquarters, and Washington Island, Wisconsin.

During her distinctive career, Ms. de Haviland earned 6 Good Conduct Medals, 6 Meritorious Service Medals, a Unit Commendation Medal, and a Special Operations Medal. She received 4 awards for exemplary service from the U.S. Department of Defense Information School for her work as a public affairs, media relations, community relations and cultural affairs relations instructor. Among her many projects, she created, produced and distributed worldwide to the military Persian Excursion, a humorous video featuring Bob Hope, and directed the Two Hundred Year USCG Anniversary celebration in Grand Haven, Michigan. Ms. de Haviland was also recognized as Outstanding Enlistee of the Year by her USCGR group.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Specialist First Class de Haviland for her 30 years of dedicated service. Our Nation owes her a debt of gratitude for her commitment and record of accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 NAACP
HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR
HON. CAROLYN Q. COLEMAN

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great woman in the African-American community and a visionary leader in North Carolina, The Honorable Carolyn Q. Coleman. Mrs. Coleman will receive the 2007 NAACP Humanitarian of the Year Award at

the 23rd Annual NAACP Humanitarian of the Year Banquet on Saturday, January 27 in Durham, North Carolina. Her work over the last year is inspiring but what truly makes her remarkable is the scope of her deeds over a lifetime.

Carolyn Quilloin Coleman is a native of Savannah, Georgia, where as a young woman she became involved in civil rights and human rights issues with the local NAACP Youth Council. After a 9 year ban of the NAACP in Alabama, Coleman joined the late Althea Simmons in reorganizing units in that State. She currently serves as Secretary of the National Board and Assistant Secretary of the National Association. On the State level, Mrs. Coleman is the First Vice President of the North Carolina State Conference and is a member of the Greensboro Branch's Executive Committee.

Mrs. Coleman graduated from Savannah State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in History and minors in Economics and Sociology. She pursued her Masters Degree in Adult Education at North Carolina A&T and has also studied at the Memphis Theological Seminary in Tennessee.

Professionally, Mrs. Coleman served as the Special Assistant to Governor Jim Hunt for eight years, providing guidance on issues of the minority community. In her forty-year relationship with the NAACP, Mrs. Coleman has served with distinction as a Regional Youth Director, Alabama State Director, Southeast Voter Education Director and the North Carolina State Director.

Mrs. Coleman led the North Carolina State Conference in filing 13 lawsuits challenging the at-large elections of Judges, County Commissioners, City Council and School Board members. Her efforts led to redistricting in the State, which made possible the election of two African-American Members of Congress in the 1990s, the first since Reconstruction. In total, the results of those suits led to the election of ten African-American Superior Court Judges and over 100 new African-American officials.

In 2006, Mrs. Coleman won re-election to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners with 74 percent of the vote and was elected the first African-American woman to chair the Board. As a Commissioner, Mrs. Coleman is a liaison on several boards, including the Greensboro Sports Commission, the Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation, the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments and the Work First Planning Board, in addition to her responsibilities on the Board's Budget Process Committee, Community Based Organizations Study Committee and School Budget Committee.

Despite her years of continued service, Mrs. Coleman still makes time for her friends—as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, her family—as the mother of one son, Carlton, and faith—as a communicant of the New Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Coleman for more than twenty years as a family friend and a colleague in the struggle for racial justice. There is no question that her work has made a difference in the lives of many North Carolinians.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the delegates to the NAACP Conference in paying tribute to this courageous

and dedicated woman who has worked to foster and continue our Nation's founding principle—that all men and women are created equal.

THE CLEAN WATER STATE
REVOLVING LOAN FUND

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was brought to my attention that on last Friday—during the customary exchange between Majority Leader HOYER and Minority Whip BLUNT—the gentleman from Missouri had some questions regarding the “substantive” nature of my subcommittee's business on last Friday.

As the recently elected Chairwoman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, I have come to the floor to address the gentleman's inquiries.

From the onset, I want to make it clear to the gentleman from Missouri that I empathize with his disgruntlement over our current work schedule.

However, I also want the gentleman to understand that I will not sit idly by and allow the escalation of the gentleman's disgruntlement to come at the expense of my subcommittee and the good work of the committee members.

The Water Resources Subcommittee has the broadest agenda of any of the Transportation Subcommittees, covering Corps of Engineers' projects and authorities, EPA's Clean Water and Superfund Programs, Brownfields, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Last Friday, with a standing room only crowd, the Subcommittee returned to some of the unfinished work of the previous, Republican-led Congress—particularly, reauthorization of the highly popular Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program.

This is the same program that, despite bipartisan efforts, was blocked from floor consideration by Republican leadership last Congress due to various objections to certain wage provisions.

The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program is a powerful partnership between EPA and the States. It allows States the flexibility to provide funding for projects that will address their highest-priority water quality needs.

The program allows Federal, State, and local agencies to leverage limited dollars. Moreover, loans for such water infrastructure projects also tend to stimulate local economies by encouraging commercial development and construction and creating good paying jobs.

As a result of this, the Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee will be moving forward on a pro-environment and pro-infrastructure agenda.

Over the coming weeks my subcommittee will be introducing legislation aimed at reauthorizing a series of long overdue Clean Water Act program provisions and water infrastructure bills aimed at restoring and maintaining confidence in our Nation's water resources.

Regrettably, over the past six years the current Administration has presided over the slow, but steady, dismantling of the public's confidence in our water resources. Inadequate budgets, the easing of regulatory safeguards, and misguided priorities have brought about a dramatic reversal in national water quality trends.

We have not enacted a Water Resources Development Act since this President has been in office. This is ridiculous!

Adequate investment in our Nation's drinking water infrastructure has also been woefully neglected. Two years ago the EPA conducted a survey of the needs of public water systems. The survey estimates that public water systems need to invest \$276 billion on drinking water infrastructure improvements over twenty years to comply with drinking water regulations and to ensure safe water.

Without a renewed commitment towards investment from all parties, in less than a generation, the U.S. could lose much of the gains made possible by the Clean Water Act.

State and local governments can not tackle these enormous challenges alone. The Federal Government must be a willing and able partner and the time to act is now. The Federal Government must renew its commitment to ensure the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our Nation's water supply.

We owe future generations no less.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007.

Make no mistake; H.R. 5 is a bad bill which does not live up to its title. In fact, this legislation provides no assistance to help future and current students attend college. Instead of helping increase attendance, this legislation seeks to reduce interest rates for those making payments on their student loans. This is a worthy goal. But this legislation accomplishes this by taxing private lenders, ultimately reducing the number of lenders willing to participate in the student loan program.

H.R. 5 provides a short-term reduction in interest rates for students who received federally guaranteed subsidized loans while they were attending college. In order to pay for this required rate reduction, this legislation forces private lenders to reduce their rates below market value. Additionally, this legislation doubles the tax imposed on these lenders by increasing the lender origination fee from .05 percent to 1 percent.

Over the course of this debate we have heard stories from Members of Congress about how the ability to go to school greatly added to their quality of life. I agree wholeheartedly that there are numerous benefits to attending college. However, not one of those Members of Congress would have had greater access to college if H.R. 5 had been in effect when they were undergraduates, because this bill does nothing for aspiring students.

Finally, I think it is important to note that we have a very competitive private marketplace

providing student loans. When the government places mandates reducing their ability to compete—we all lose by driving competitors out of the marketplace. H.R. 5 directly targets the Federal family education Loan industry, dealing a devastating blow to the industry that has helped millions of students go to college.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and work toward a bill that will actually help college students realize their goals of furthering their education.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MICKEY
PEABODY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mickey Peabody for her many years of service and leadership to the City of Oakdale and the community of Stanislaus County. On January 19th, friends and colleagues will hold an event to express sincere gratitude and to congratulate Mickey as she receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to her history of great community involvement, Mickey will be thanked for her years of devotion to the Stanislaus County Commission for Women, Childcare Planning Council, Mental Health Board, Commission on Aging, Citizens Against Substance Abuse, Oakdale Fights Back, and the California Senior Legislature—along with many other agencies and commissions.

In addition to this Lifetime Achievement Award, Mickey has received awards that include Outstanding Woman of the Year, Outstanding Senior Citizen, and Woman of Distinction. Additionally, Mickey has earned a leadership award from the California Public Health Consortium and the National Center for Small Communities.

Mickey has a past filled with great instances of charity and compassion, and she will undoubtedly continue this same community devotion in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Mickey Peabody for her many years of service and philanthropy. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her many years of continued happiness and success.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE HAPPY HOOLIGANS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on January 16, I joined the Happy Hooligans and the North Dakota Air National Guard in celebrating their 60th Anniversary. This unit—the 119th Fighting Wing, now rechristened the 119th Wing—has served our nation for the better part of the last century, and their dedicated commitment to our Nation's defense will only continue in the coming years.

I can remember being at the Capitol on September 11th and one year later, being at

the Pentagon to recognize those pilots from the 119th Fighter Wing, who were flying vigil that day and in fact, did the first fly-over of the Pentagon after the attack. These moments will forever be part of the Hooligans' history.

This unit demonstrated time and again a commitment to excellence in flying fighter aircraft. The William Tell competition, which pits the top fighter units from across the country, was won by the 119th three times. The unit won the Hughes Achievement Award for air defense twice. It only makes sense to provide such a skilled and decorated unit a mission for the new century consistent with the evolution of the United States Air Force.

We know about our two new missions—the C-21s and the Predators—but what we don't yet know is how exactly the Hooligans will make their next entry into the history books with those aircraft. Ultimately, the 119th is about the people that make it up and those people have a record of accomplishment and great service to our Nation.

The 119th changes its mission, but brings with it an enviable record for flying safety. The unit was awarded the Flight Safety Trophy four times in the past seven years. Since 1990, the "Happy Hooligans" have flown more than 70,000 hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident from dozens of locations around the world, in a variety of weather conditions, during daylight and nighttime hours. That achievement coupled with hours of accident free flying in F-4 fighters and flight hours in F-101 fighter aircraft is one of the best safety records in U.S. Air Force history.

The pilots and other personnel in Fargo today who have stood up to terrorists and stood for freedom to protect the United States are remarkable heroes and their stories will ring true for many years in our hearts and our history books.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcalls numbers 44, 45, and 46, on January 22, I am not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

A TRIBUTE TO JON SAMUELS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, when our constituents think of the House of Representatives, they think of the 435 elected Congressmen and women. Yet each of us is acutely aware that much of what we do or say simply wouldn't happen without our hard-working staff—the men and women who choose this way to serve their country, and, oh yes, toil to make us look good.

I rise today to pay tribute to Jonathan Samuels who has worked with me and for me from the earliest days of my first Congressional race, beginning in 1997 until today. It is with

great pride, even motherly pride, that I see him move on to a key position in the office of Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN.

In the early fall of 1997, I literally recruited Jon Samuels off the street in my home town of Evanston, Illinois. He and I were walking together in a student-led march against violence that started at the High School and ended in downtown Evanston, a few blocks from my campaign office. He told me that he had recently graduated from college and talked about the work he was doing with the youth in our community. I learned he was experienced outdoors man and led young people on challenging wilderness experiences.

By the time we reached our destination, I knew that I had to have Jon on my team. I clung to him during the speeches and then took him directly to my office to sign him up as an organizer in the Campaign School I was creating. The Campaign School was to be made up of seventeen young people from around the country who wanted to learn to become political professionals by working the Congressional campaign of a progressive Democratic woman. In exchange for providing excellent training, they would work for a stipend and organize a sufficient number of volunteers and identify enough voters that would elect me to Congress.

The plan worked, in large part, because Jon Samuels was a star. There wasn't anything he couldn't do in that first campaign, and there was no way I could go to Washington without him. For the next 8 years, Jon worked by my side as Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and then as Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications Director. Along with my amazing Chief of Staff, Cathy Hurwit, Jon has been the brains behind Team Schakowsky.

As good as he was when he started, Jon has only gotten better. I have watched him grow into one of the most capable, dedicated, strategic, focused, wise-beyond-his-years young men I have ever encountered. I have relied on him to handle the most complicated issues and situations, deal with the media, constituents and outside groups, with other members and their staffs.

But even more than for all of his extraordinary talents and skills, I appreciate and love Jon Samuels for his heart. Working in my office was never just a job for Jon. He believes in our shared progressive vision. He believed our team could make a difference. And I always knew he believed in me, and that has been and continues to be a source of inspiration.

Jon is now like family to me. I feel privileged to say that because Jon is fiercely loyal to his family. He even calls his Grandmother every single day!

And so, Madam Speaker, I rise to say on the record, Thank you, Jon Samuels. Thank you for your service to the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, for your continuing contributions to our country, for sticking with me for over 9 years, and for your love and friendship. You will always be part of Team Schakowsky.

RETIREMENT OF SUSAN K. KERN,
DIRECTOR OF THE UNIONDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and spirited community leader from the 4th Congressional District, Director of the Uniondale Public Library Susan K. Kern. Susan K. Kern began her library career 40 years ago in her hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts after receiving her Master's degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts.

Susan spent time working in public libraries in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey before relocating to Long Island, New York in 1981.

In 1986, Susan became the Director of Uniondale Public Library. She remained in that position for over 20 years. During her tenure at the Uniondale Public Library Susan was a major factor in several projects and programs that are still in existence today. She was responsible for installing the library's first elevator in 1987, coordinating the removal of dangerous asbestos in 1992 to keep the community safe and healthy.

The major project of her Uniondale Public Library career has been the Building Expansion and Renovation project. Beginning in 2003, this renovation took nearly 3 years to complete, ending with a Grand Reopening Celebration on January 8, 2006. This project has doubled the size of the library and has enabled the facility to offer more services and materials for the community.

In addition to the great projects Susan has completed, she is also responsible for many programs for the community. Susan has initiated many art exhibits, classes for both children and adults, and countless cultural programs for community members of all ages.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding guidance provided by Susan K. Kern, and the remarkable accomplishments she has made along the way. Together with her family and friends, I applaud Susan for her dedication and service to the community. I wish her continued success, and am honored to have her as a member of my district.

HONORING JERRY ZREMSKI ON
HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT
OF THE NATIONAL PRESS
CLUB

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Jerry Zremski, newly inaugurated president of the National Press Club and new Washington Bureau Chief of the Buffalo News. Jerry has worked for the Buffalo News for 27 years, and we are privileged to have such a reputable journalist covering our city.

Jerry joined the Washington bureau of the Buffalo News in 1989. From presidential elections and the Buffalo waterfront to the Western

New York congressional delegation and international conflicts, Jerry has played an integral part in reporting and analyzing the news for our great Western New York newspaper over these past years.

A native of Elkland, Pennsylvania, Jerry is a Syracuse University graduate, where he received his Bachelor's degree in journalism and he holds a Master's degree in political science from American University.

Jerry served as the president of the Regional Reporters Association in 1997 and was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University in 1999–2000. Jerry previously served as the National Press Club's vice president, has also served as membership secretary and treasurer since joining the Club in 1989. He is already taking a proactive approach to the upcoming year, identifying freedom of the press as the primary focus for his term in office. Jerry will undoubtedly continue to be a strong voice for free press worldwide, carrying on the National Press Club's traditions of ethical and worthy journalism.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and celebrate the achievements of Jerry Zremski and thank him for his contributions to our Western New York community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
BUNDLING DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Bundling Disclosure Act. While we have already made tremendous strides in the 110th Congress by passing many ethics reform measures, in the first 100 hours, our work is not done. We must continue to move forward to ensure that the proper relationship is maintained between Members of Congress and lobbyists who advance their clients, legislative interests before Congress. This bill is an important step in the direction of adding some sunlight to the activities of lobbyists who have business before the Congress while at the same time providing campaign contributions, co-hosting events or collecting and transmitting the contributions of others.

While lobbyists are subject to the same legal limitations as any other individual regarding the amount of a contribution they can make to a Member's campaign, some lobbyists also solicit, gather and transmit the contributions of others to Members. This "bundling" practice enables lobbyists to enhance their significance to a Member of Congress and consequently, this practice should be transparent to the public.

This disclosure to the American people is essential in order to provide the accountability that so many voters demanded as a result of the abuses that took place in the recent past. We need to create transparency around the campaign finance practices of registered lobbyists. As Justice Brandeis has said, "sunlight is the best disinfectant."

Last year, I amended the Lobbying Disclosure Act, in the Judiciary Committee, to require lobbyists to disclose their bundling of funds. This amendment was adopted on a bi-

partisan vote of 28 to 4 and was the subject of a Washington Post editorial on April 13, 2005 entitled, "Real Lobbying Reform, A House Committee Tackles the Nexus Between Campaign Cash and Legislative Influence". Unfortunately, a funny thing happened on the way to the Rules Committee. This bundling disclosure provision was mysteriously stripped from the bill without a vote or comment. Any effort to add the provision back into the bill in the Rules Committee or on the House floor was blocked.

Therefore, I was pleased to see that Senators FEINGOLD and OBAMA drafted a similar provision in the 110th Congress. The Senate's bundling disclosure requirement was included in the Senate Ethics bill that passed by a vote of 96 to 2. This bill that I am introducing today with Congressman MEEHAN contains the same provision.

The American people spoke loud and clear during the last election. They want reform. They want this Congress to correct the abuses of the past. This bill will shed much needed light on the murky intersection of fundraising and the legislative process. I urge you to support this bill so that we can restore the American people's faith in Congress and put the public interest before the special interests.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of January 22, 2007 the House voted on three measures under suspension of the rules. H. Res. 52, paying tribute to Reverend Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp, H.R. 390, to require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records and H. Res. 29, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2007.

On rollcall votes Nos. 44, 45 and 46 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE WILLIAM FLOYD
HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary efforts of the William Floyd High School Varsity Football Team, for winning the 2006 Long Island High School Championship and the coveted Rutgers Trophy.

After an undefeated regular season, the William Floyd Colonials captured the Conference I Championship, the Suffolk County Championship, and finished the season with a 34–27 victory over Baldwin High School for the Long Island Championship. The Colonials executed on both sides of the football, in front of more than 5,200 boisterous fans. They controlled the game, exhibiting teamwork and great individual effort to finish with a perfect 11–0 season.

I am honored to represent William Floyd High School and these athletes who not only strive to succeed on the field of play, but in the classroom as well. As a parent, I value the important lessons that competitive athletics teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Special congratulations to William Floyd's head coach, Paul Longo, and the coaching staff who trained this football team to be the best on Long Island. These young student athletes represent all that is good about high school sports, and it is my privilege to serve as their Congressman.

Go Floyd!

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING
MONTH 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 29, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2007.

The strains on America's families are immense. Many parents work two and three jobs to put food on the table and provide medical care for their children. Sometimes, tragedy or medical emergency diminishes the support a child receives at home. The list of vulnerabilities children face is long.

The worst circumstances, however, will bring out the best in humanity. When a need exists, society often leans in to help shoulder the load.

Today we are celebrating the uncanny ability of Americans to lend a helping hand. Today on the House floor and this month across America, we honor those people who sacrifice their time and energy to provide a friendly face, a supportive shoulder, a patient ear, and a model for leadership and success in the form of mentoring relationships.

According to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America, young people touched by mentors are more confident in their schoolwork performance, able to get along better with their families, 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to begin using alcohol, and 52 percent less likely to skip school.

In my district of El Paso, Texas, I have seen the positive impact of mentoring firsthand through my involvement with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of El Paso. The hundreds of individuals who step up either as big brothers and sisters or in support of the organization not only make a difference in the life of a child but also provide a model for civic involvement that can be emulated by the community at large.

Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis, scores of organizations and millions of Americans provide the positive relationships that help a child gain the confidence and responsibility he or she needs to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO COACH TONY
NAPOLET

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the recently completed season and still ongoing career of someone who is an institution in Ohio High School football and the community of Warren, Ohio. Coach Tony Napolet was awarded this year's Coach of the Year award after leading the Warren JFK Eagles to a 14–1 season capped by a berth to the Division 5 State championship game.

Although I never had the opportunity to play for him, Coach Napolet has been a friend and mentor throughout my entire adult life. The year following my graduation from Warren JFK, Tony Napolet was brought on for what he anticipated as being a 1-year stint as JFK head coach. That season, after squeaking into the playoffs, Napolet and the Eagles rattled off an amazing run to win the State Championship. At the conclusion of that season Coach Napolet agreed to come back to coach the Eagles indefinitely. He followed his title winning season with another birth to the State championship game. Although Coach Napolet and the Eagles suffered a 1-point loss, the 2nd straight appearance in the State championship game solidified Tony Napolet's niche in the upper echelon of Ohio high school football coaches. And that was hardly the twilight of Coach Napolet's career. He has since coached the Eagles to numerous winning seasons and three more State semifinal appearances including this past season's appearance in another State championship game.

Overall Coach Tony Napolet has garnered three top ten AP rankings, five state semi-final appearances, a winning percentage of .716 during his time at Warren JFK, and an overall coaching record of 191 wins, 84 losses and 3 ties.

All of the records, statistics, and awards, however, cannot speak to the influential and inspirational man that is Tony Napolet. One thing that everyone who has "ever played for Coach Napolet knows is that whether you were the starting quarterback or the third string defensive lineman, you were treated exactly the same. Not only was everyone an equal on the field, but also off the field, mid-season, off-season, and after you had graduated. Tony Napolet is known in the community just as much for what he does for young people after they graduate, as he is for his coaching prowess. Of course there are the typical phone calls to college coaches and recommendation letters, but his involvement in his former players' lives doesn't end there. Coach Napolet is the one who helps you find a summer job when you're home from school, or serves as a reference on an internship application. Since Coach Napolet is such an integral part of the JFK High family, he in turn treats everyone as a member of his family.

Tony Napolet is every part of what a high school football coach should be. He realizes and has always realized that the role he plays is not just that of football coach but as someone who is helping prepare young men for the next step in their lives, whether that involves football or not.

So, today I am not honoring a coach and his distinct record, but rather a great man who also happens to be a fantastic coach.

THE CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY RIGHT
TO KNOW ACT OF 2007

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, 7 years ago this month, Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, suffered a horrible tragedy, as a fire ripped through one of its residence halls. That fire killed 3 young freshmen and wounded 58 other students.

Unfortunately, campus fires have become all too common. Each year, thousands of fires rage through the campuses and off-campus housing of our colleges and universities. Since January 2000, almost 100 people have died in campus-related fires across the country. In 2006 alone, 12 people were killed.

Last week, I was proud to reintroduce the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act of 2007, H.R. 592, in response to this problem. This bill is widely supported, and has garnered 28 bipartisan cosponsors to date. Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG has also introduced companion legislation in the Senate, S. 354.

This landmark legislation calls for colleges and universities to report vital fire safety information to the U.S. Department of Education. This will allow prospective students and their parents to make informed decisions regarding a fire-safe school based on criteria such as the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems, automatic fire alarm systems, fire prevention training and other related factors.

The Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act does not mandate upgrades; it simply requires schools to collect and report data crucial to the safety and well-being of students and other residents.

The fact that this legislation was passed by the House of Representatives in the 109th Congress was due, in no small part, to the tremendous support provided by leading fire safety organizations. These and other organizations have joined with me once again to support this vital legislation in order to protect our students on campuses across the Nation. They are working tirelessly every day to improve fire safety for our citizens, and I want to recognize and commend them for their support and their leadership.

These fourteen organizations include Campus Firewatch, The Center for Campus Fire Safety, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Fire Chiefs Association, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Code Council, the International Fire Marshals Association, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Fire Sprinkler Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, and Underwriters Laboratories.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress to act now on this important legislation so that we may ensure a safe school environment for all college and university students. When we entrust our children to any institution, we expect

that they will be in a safe environment. And we have the right to expect that much.

PRESIDENT BUSH EXPECTED TO
SPEAK OUT ABOUT GLOBAL
WARMING TONIGHT—NEEDS TO
ACT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, over the last week we've heard that President Bush is finally going to admit tonight what most of us have known for years—that global warming is actually occurring and that we as a Nation need to take action.

Tonight's expected pronouncement from the President is welcome news, but it does not excuse the administration's past record on global warming.

Over the last six years, the Bush administration has served as a major roadblock to reversing dangerous warming trends. The President walked away from international efforts to help reduce this growing danger to our planet, refusing to actually lead on this critically important issue.

In my home State of New Jersey, we are proud of the fact that former Governor Richard J. Codey took decisive action over a year ago to strengthen our State's efforts to combat global warming by classifying carbon dioxide as an air contaminant. This action made New Jersey one of the first States in the Nation to take such a step. By contrast, the Bush administration has been in constant denial about environmental dangers to our planet.

I hope President Bush provides more than just lip service on global warming as he addresses the Nation tonight. After all, the President has pledged to reduce our dependence on foreign oil every year since he took office, while his policies have consistently made the problem worse.

Last year was the hottest ever recorded in our Nation's history. Our planet simply cannot afford more inaction from this administration. I hope that the President is serious about joining us in producing policies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The time for action is long overdue.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 NAACP
HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR
HON. CAROLYN Q. COLEMAN

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great woman in the African American community and a vocal leader in North Carolina, the Honorable Carolyn Q. Coleman. Mrs. Coleman will receive the 2007 NAACP Humanitarian of the Year Award at the 23rd Annual NAACP Humanitarian of the Year Banquet on Saturday, January 27 in Durham, North Carolina. Her work over the last year is inspiring but what truly makes her remarkable is the scope of her deeds over a lifetime.

Carolyn Quilloin Coleman is a native of Savannah, Georgia, where as a young woman she became involved in civil rights and human rights issues with the local NAACP Youth Council. After a 9-year ban of the NAACP in Alabama, Coleman joined the late Althea Simons in reorganizing units in that State. She currently serves as Secretary of the National Board and Assistant Secretary of the National Association. On the State level, Mrs. Coleman is the First Vice President of the North Carolina State Conference and is a member of the Greensboro Branch's Executive Committee.

Coleman graduated from Savannah State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in History and minors in Economics and Sociology. Coleman pursued her Masters Degree in Adult Education at North Carolina A&T and has also studied at the Memphis Theological Seminary in Tennessee.

Professionally, Coleman served as the Special Assistant to Governor Jim Hunt for 8 years, providing guidance on issues of the mi-

nority community. In her 40-year relationship with the NAACP, Mrs. Coleman has served with distinction as a Regional Youth Director, Alabama State Director, Southeast Voter Education Director and the North Carolina State Director.

Mrs. Coleman led the North Carolina State Conference in filing 13 lawsuits challenging the at-large elections of Judges, County Commissioners, City Council and School Board members. Her efforts led to redistricting in the State, which made possible the election of two African-American Members of Congress in the 1990s, the first since Reconstruction. In total, the results of those suits led to the election of 10 African-American Superior Court Judges and over 100 new African-American officials.

In 2006, Mrs. Coleman won re-election to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners with 74 percent of the vote and was elected the first African-American woman to chair the Board. As a Commissioner, Coleman is a liaison on several boards including the Greens-

boro Sports Commission, the Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation, the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments and the Work First Planning Board in addition to her responsibilities on the Board's Budget Process Committee, Community Based Organizations Study Committee and School Budget Committee.

Despite her years of continued service, Mrs. Coleman still makes time for her friends—as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, her family—as the mother of one son, Carlton, and faith—as a communicant of the New Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro.

Madam Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to join me and the delegates to the NAACP Conference in paying tribute to this courageous and dedicated woman who has worked to foster and continue our Nation's founding principle—that all men and women are created equal.