

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Holy Family Hospital for being rated as a top performer in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Premier Hospital Quality Incentive project.

Holy Family Hospital has been providing quality health care to the people of Eastern Washington for more than 40 years, but their story really began in 1945 when the Dominican Sisters purchased the land that Holy Family Hospital was later built on. Their philosophy to “restore and maintain health, promote wellness, prevent illness whenever possible, and help create a person-centered environment which fosters the healing process” continues to guide the efforts of Holy Family Hospital today.

As a top performer, Holy Family Hospital was evaluated on their performance and outcome measures in five clinical areas—acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft, CABG, pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Holy Family Hospital for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Eastern Washington community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of Holy Family Hospital on this great achievement.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH ANNE ROYCROFT AS ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA’S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Elizabeth Anne Roycroft as Escambia County’s Teacher of the Year.

Anne Roycroft joined the Escambia County School District administration in 2004, with an education background in American Studies, a Master’s of Education in Counseling from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Graduate Studies degree in Psychology from the University of West Florida. Mrs. Roycroft has proudly served the Escambia County School District for over two years, where she currently teaches Social Studies to sixth and seventh graders at Warrington Middle School in Pensacola, Florida.

Mrs. Roycroft’s involvement both in and out of the classroom proves her dedication and passion for teaching. She is a member of the National Council for the Social Studies, the Florida Council for the Social Studies, National Council for Geographic Education, and the International Reading Association. Since Mrs. Roycroft has begun teaching at Warrington Middle School, she has served as the Social Studies Department Chairman, a Member of the Technology Learning Group, a member of the school leadership team for Curriculum Mapping, a mentor, and the list continues.

The Teacher of the Year recognition highlights one year of teaching, but the proof of greatness lies well beyond the title—it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. To have the ability to significantly impact the lives of her students and to positively shape their minds, by instilling the knowledge, wisdom, and confidence needed to succeed is immeasurable and places Anne Roycroft among the great teachers in Northwest Florida. Escambia County is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Elizabeth Anne Roycroft on this outstanding achievement and her exemplary service in the Escambia County School District.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CASE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Case, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Richard served in the United States Army, 101st Airborne Division. On June 6, 1944, he landed on Utah Beach as part of the Normandy invasion and saw 21 consecutive days of combat. For his heroism and valor, Richard was awarded the Purple Heart, two Bronze Service Stars, and the Oak Leaf Cluster with Distinguished Unit Badge. In addition, on the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Richard, along with 21 of the original paratroopers, jumped at Utah Beach.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Richard Case for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I com-

mend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Richard Case for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act, a bill to empower millions of working and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America’s education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called “consumer sovereignty”. Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education “market.” Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the federal government. Because “he who pays the piper calls the tune,” public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal “educrats” while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an evergreater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control. Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America’s parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system.

According to a poll by McLaughlin and Associates, two-thirds of Americans believe education tax credits would have a positive effect on American education. This poll also found strong support for education tax credits among liberals, moderates, conservatives, low-income individuals, and African-Americans. This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the classroom and give parents more control over their children’s education.

• 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.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$5,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Madame Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. According to a Manhattan Institute study of the effects of state policies promoting parental control over education, a minimal increase in parental control boosts students' average SAT verbal score by 21 points and students' SAT math score by 22 points! The Manhattan Institute study also found that increasing parental control of education is the best way to improve student performance on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Madame Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the

increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL OF
CHEWELAH DELIVERS HIGH
QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah for being rated as a top performer in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Premier Hospital Quality Incentive program.

St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah was founded in 1929 by the Dominican Sisters. As a member of Providence Health Care, their mission is to provide a community of healing, collaborate with caregivers, and uphold a commitment to excellence. This is the kind of service and care they provide every day.

As a top performer, St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah was evaluated on their performance and outcome measures in five clinical areas—acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Eastern Washington community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah on this great achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
FINE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Fine, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

William served in the United States Army, Company G, 318th Infantry Division and served in Central Europe, Ardennes and the Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, William was awarded the American Service Medal, the

European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor William Fine for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud William Fine for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE EDUCATION
IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

Education remains one of the top priorities of the American people. Unfortunately, most proposals to address the American people's demand for education reform either expand federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private,

parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children.

Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY INMAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a northern Michigan citizen who has been an exemplary leader in business, in his community and in his State. Larry Inman will celebrate his retirement this week after twenty-eight years of service to the Huntington National Bank (formerly Empire National Bank).

Mr. Inman is a northern Michigan original. He obtained his education and spent nearly his entire career in northern Michigan. He earned an Associate of Science degree from Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City before graduating from Northern Michigan University in Marquette in 1976. Mr. Inman had a brief internship in the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division before he began his career with the Empire National Bank as a loan adjuster in 1979.

Mr. Inman's career at Huntington National Bank has been characterized by loyalty and dedication. His hard work and tenacity were often recognized and rewarded at Huntington National Bank. During his twenty-eight years there, he was promoted nine times, ultimately landing the position of Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer—Sales Executive Senior.

While Mr. Inman has been a tireless employee for Huntington National Bank, what is most remarkable is how he always took time to be an active member of his local community. In fact, given his track record of success at Huntington National Bank and the amount of time he dedicated to his professional career, it is truly astounding the number of community organizations that he has supported, belonged to or helped to lead. Larry has involved himself in community fundraisers for the local Junior Achievement and the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. He spent time as a Volunteer Probation Officer for Michigan's 86th District Court. Maintaining his ties to his alma mater, he served on Northwestern Michigan College's Curriculum Advisory Committee.

Mr. Inman also applied his knowledge and professional experience toward the growth and development of the Grand Traverse County

area, serving on the Grand Traverse County Economic Development Corporation, the Waste Council, the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission and the Grand Traverse County Planning Commission.

Perhaps most important to the region's planning and development, Mr. Inman was elected in 1993 to the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and has been successively re-elected every two years.

Beyond the organizations that helped guide the region's economic growth and development, Mr. Inman was active with a number of organizations that assist those in the Grand Traverse community who need the most help. For instance, he spent time on the Funds Distribution Board of the United Way of Northern Michigan and the Grand Traverse County Veterans Affairs Board.

Beyond his service to the local Grand Traverse region, Mr. Inman also served the State of Michigan in a variety of capacities. The Governor appointed him to serve on the Board of Trustees of Northern Michigan University. Since 1998, he has represented a ten-county region on the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments. He serves today on the State of Michigan Community Corrections Board and chaired the Corrections Board from 1999 to 2006.

Given the amount of time that Mr. Inman has dedicated to serving his state and his local community, it is no wonder that his colleagues have, at times, jokingly referred to him as "Larry Never In Man." Yet, despite the demands that community involvement places upon his time, Mr. Inman has led a highly successful career at Huntington National Bank. Some might speculate that his success can be attributed to his effervescent attitude. He is known around the office for responding to the question, "How are you?" with his trademark response, "Simply the best!"

With Larry's well deserved retirement, perhaps he will have more time to indulge his passions of attending Martina McBride concerts and collecting country music memorabilia. However, even while he enjoys these hobbies, I know Mr. Inman will remain an active part of the Grand Traverse Community.

Madam Speaker, all of us struggle to balance our professional lives with involvement in our local communities. As a leader in local business, in his community and in the State of Michigan, Larry Inman exemplifies that balance.

Madam Speaker, I first met Larry Inman when I attended Northwestern Michigan College from 1970–1972. Larry and I, along with Tom Willson, were studying law enforcement, young ladies and the latest night spots. We became good friends in college and better friends in business and politics. I regret that I cannot personally attend his retirement party as my Congressional responsibilities are keeping me in Washington, D.C. Larry knows I am with him in spirit, in friendship and in my heart, because you really do not have that many good friends like Larry Inman!

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting Mr. Larry Inman for his years of dedication and in congratulating him on a well deserved retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GLANS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Glans, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Robert served in the United States Army, 60th Infantry Regiment and served in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, the WWII Victory Medal, and the American Campaign Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Robert Glans for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Robert Glans for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 98TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has been at the forefront of the fight for civil and political liberty. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, our Nation's oldest civil rights organization, has been on the right side of history for 98 years.

Doing the right thing wasn't an easy task, especially given the entrenched discrimination black Americans faced. When African Americans were victims of lynching; when hostile government policies forced black Americans into substandard, segregated schools; when black voters were disenfranchised by poll taxes and other unfair barriers, the NAACP stepped up to help end discrimination and do what was right.

I feel privileged to represent a district with a strong branch of the NAACP. The Sonoma County NAACP was co-founded by my friends Gilbert and Alice Gray and other local activists. Alice was a dedicated volunteer and fearless leader. Almost 1 year ago, I rose to honor Alice after her passing. Some of her accomplishments bear mentioning again, for the scope and depth of her activism. In 1954, she

led protests against segregated local business; she helped establish the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club in Sonoma; and she helped at-risk kids in the community achieve their fullest potential by mentoring them. She also launched the Gray Foundation with her husband to help students pursue their educational goals and serve their community—"to listen and learn from the traditions of self-help and self-reliance that once gave our people strength." She was an amazing woman who honored us with her presence and the NAACP with her service.

To appreciate more fully the immense importance of the NAACP over the last century, a quick look at some of their political victories on a national scale is in order. The NAACP was instrumental in the signing of President Harry Truman's Executive order banning discrimination in 1948. The NAACP helped pass the Equal Employment Opportunity Act; the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964; the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and last year's reauthorization. The NAACP led sit-ins to protest segregated lunch counters, which led to many stores officially desegregating their counters. They also educated the public about the legacies of slavery and the importance of coming to terms with the past—for example, by protesting the racist film *Birth of a Nation*, or by taking out ads in major U.S. newspapers to give readers the facts about lynching. Thanks to the NAACP's courage, we all live in a fairer and more just Nation today. We owe this group a tremendous debt.

I am honored to be an original cosponsor of this bill to honor the NAACP and I thank Congressman AL GREEN for introducing it. It is important for every American to realize the great impact this institution has had on our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT H. REARDON, PRESIDENT, ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a beloved son of Anderson, Indiana. Bob Reardon served for 25 years as president of Anderson College, which through decades of executive service and visionary leadership he built from a relatively small Christian university with few resources into the Anderson University we proudly know today.

Robert H. Reardon was born in Chicago on April 27, 1919, but moved later that year with his parents and brother to Anderson. Following graduation from Anderson High School, class of 1936, he attended Anderson College, where he felt the call to ministry and met his wife, Geraldine Hurst, whom he married on August 24, 1941. They have four children: Rebecca, Constance, Kathleen, and Eugene.

After graduation from Anderson College in 1940, Bob went on to graduate from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology with a Bachelor of Divinity and a Master of Sacred Theology. He completed his graduate studies at Harvard and the University of Michigan before earning a Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt University.

In 1947, Bob returned to Anderson, where he would spend most of the rest of his life. He

served first as assistant to President John Morrison, then vice president of the college, and in June 1957, he was chosen by the Board of Trustees to be the successor of President Morrison. At the age of 39, Bob was one of the youngest college presidents in the Nation. He would serve as president of Anderson College from 1958 to 1983.

More than the diverse educational programs and impressive facilities built under his watch, Bob will be remembered by generations of students and faculty as a gifted leader, minister, citizen and friend. His imprint is everywhere after decades of enormously effective leadership, devotion to Christ-centered education, love for students and devotion to the church.

In his 1968 president's charge to seniors, Bob wrote: "Never wallow in mediocrity. Try hard things—for this is where all the fun is. Try to stay green—for this is where the growing is. Once you have heard the call—never give up. You will drink the cup of joy and eat the bread of sorrow. Do so with forbearance in the knowledge that so to do is to be truly human."

This was the type of man he was, a servant of the community, whose character was a role model for generations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM DEAN WHITAKER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Dean Whitaker, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944, the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

William served in the United States Army Air Corps, 603rd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group as a Bombardier and Navigator and served in Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland. On October 15, 1944, his B-17 was shot down over Merseburg, Germany; while parachuting to earth, he received hostile fire and was captured and held as a prisoner of war for 7 months. For his heroism and valor, William was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal, and the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

In 2004, during a POW/MIA ceremony held at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, William finally received the Purple Heart for his injuries and sacrifices while a Prisoner of War during World War II.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor William Whitaker for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service.

I applaud William Whitaker for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING LA MARQUE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, when we think of football in Texas, and especially Galveston County, we think of La Marque High School. Following a 15-1 season, the La Marque Cougars met the Waco Lions at the Alamodome in San Antonio, and claimed their fifth state championship on December 22, 2006.

The Coog's victory was impressive, with La Marque scoring 20 points in the last quarter to break a tie and bring the championship back home to a proud and dedicated community.

This exemplary and dedicated group of young men and their coaches, backed by the entire school, continues a proud legacy of winning. Their hard work and dedication brings pride in our entire community. I am honored to represent the Cougars, and La Marque, where football reigns.

It is a privilege to honor the La Marque High School Cougars for recapturing the Class 4A Division II State Football Championship, and I ask that we submit congratulations from the 110th Congress into the record.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 98TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud co-sponsor of the resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on this occasion of its 98th anniversary. I would like to thank my friend Rep. AL GREEN of Texas for putting forth this timely resolution.

It is with great pleasure that I stand here today to honor 98 years of the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States. As a young man growing up in the civil rights era, I witnessed firsthand the many struggles and efforts the NAACP encountered to fight the ugly face of racism and discrimination.

Honoring the NAACP immediately brings to mind one of the most eloquent scholars of recent history, my hero, W. E. B. Dubois. His involvement in the Niagara movement and scholarly work in developing *Crisis Magazine* built the foundation for what became the thriving NAACP we see today. One adage of Mr. Dubois that still motivates me to this day is his assertion, "There can be no perfect democracy curtailed by color, race, or poverty, but with all, we accomplish all, even peace." These words remind me of why I am here. Mr. Dubois understood that if America were to be

a true democracy, all men and women must be involved in the process. He fought for the rights and equality of minorities in America and abroad. I rise today because I am moved by the purpose of this legislation, which perpetuates this national struggle and the legacy of W. E. B. Dubois which became the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, although our country has overcome many obstacles since the early 1900's—it is important we recognize this historical organization today because our Nation continues to struggle against discrimination and hate crimes. We must never forget the mission of the NAACP, "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination." We must internalize this mission and continuously work together to realize the goals and mission of this organization. I urge my fellow colleagues to rise with me in support of this resolution.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
SCHANTZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Schantz, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

William served in the United States Army Air Corps, 36th Fighter Group and served in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe Air Offensive Europe. William also served behind enemy lines with the Tactical Air Force, providing integral support to troops on the ground, and supporting General Patton's troops in theater. For his heroism and valor, he was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal, the Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor William Schantz for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud William Schantz for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE FOR 35 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of Crafton Hills College, a true leader among community colleges and an exemplary model of dedication to student achievement.

Since opening its doors to students in 1972, Crafton Hills College has expanded the education and increased the job skills of over 100,000 people from all backgrounds and ages. Beginning as an idea in the minds of two Los Angeles philanthropists, the development of a community college on 500 acres of land soon became a reality. A special election in 1967 secured funding for construction of the campus, and the first classes were taught only 5 years later. The accessibility of the education and top-notch professional programs attracted students from all areas of southern California. In only 35 years Crafton Hills College experienced unprecedented growth, from an original population of 881 students and 21 full-time faculty members in 1972, to the current number of students totaling over 5,200 with 80 full-time teachers and administrators.

Crafton Hills College serves as a model for other schools in handling expansion of a student population while remaining constant in the quality of their programs. Crafton Hills has continued to maintain a low cost of tuition and offer superior classroom instructors, while concurrently forming their programs into some of the most reliable in the California college system. Because they have access to a variety of occupational and degree programs, students are able to become adequately prepared for employment in the workforce, or transfer to a 4-year university in any of 36 different majors.

The Fire Science Program and the Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic Program are recognized as two of the most outstanding college emergency services programs in the state, and Crafton Hills is the primary location for paramedic training in the San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The programs are supported by the involvement of local hospitals, fire departments, and emergency facilities, and this inclusion of community agencies has encouraged students to engage in hands-on learning while allowing them the rare opportunity to network with potential employers. By funneling their newly gained skills into health care professions, firefighting, and paramedic services in the southern California area, students demonstrate a dedication to enhancing public health and safety for those around them, and in many cases, forego the risk to their own lives.

Crafton Hills College has been a key element in the success of the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center. The center trains fire fighting personnel in proper tactics for fighting aircraft fires and adequate rescue techniques, and Crafton Hills College implements and oversees the center's educational component. The enthusiasm and

teaching ability of the administrators and teachers will undoubtedly continue to attract firefighters throughout the Nation eager to receive top-notch instruction and training.

The 35th anniversary of such a well-regarded college is certainly a cause for recognition. It is with great privilege that I represent such a respected academic institution, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing thirty-five years of achievements at Crafton Hills College.

A FRIEND LOST

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, in the February 14 edition of Roll Call, one of the most accomplished authorities on the workings of Congress pays a heartfelt and well-deserved tribute to another authority on our workings—Nelson Polsby. Sadly, Nelson Polsby died recently. He was an extraordinary intellect, who paid this institution the enormous compliment of taking it very seriously and helping both the general public and those of us who serve here understand our workings. Norman Ornstein was a colleague of Nelson Polsby in this important work, and in today's edition of Roll Call, in a few short paragraphs, he does a great deal to capture the essence of Nelson Polsby and to help people understand why so many of us will miss him. Madam Speaker, self knowledge is always important, and I ask that Mr. Ornstein's words be inserted here, both in tribute to one of the great scholars of our time, and in the hope that Members of Congress will, if they have not already done so, discover the works of Nelson Polsby and learn from them.

A FRIEND LOST

Three topics of discussion this week beginning with this: Congress lost a true friend and one of the all-time great scholars of its history and dynamics last week with the death of Nelson Polsby.

Polsby was a larger-than-life figure in every respect (The Times in London, in its wonderful obituary, described him as "a mountain of a man; he looked like an American footballer gone to seed.") His imposing physical presence was matched by an even more imposing intellect. His tongue, and pen, could be withering, but legions of students and colleagues, me included, could not have a better friend and mentor. Polsby's scholarship spanned many areas, but Congress was his true love and the subject of his best work.

His article "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives" is among the most cited scholarly pieces ever published in the American Political Science Review. His last book, "How Congress Evolves: Social Bases of Institutional Change," is typically elegant and deep, a huge contribution to the scholarly literature but written so that a nonprofessional reader can learn mightily from its insights. It is a must-read for every Member of Congress who wants to understand his or her institution in a historical and political context—which should be every Member of Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMBER
CORNELIUS DRABANT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Amber Cornelius Drabant for her long and distinguished service to the Clark County School District.

Amber was educated in the Clark County School District where she attended Twin Lakes Elementary School, R.O. Gibson Junior High School and graduated from Western High School. In 1976, Mrs. Drabant returned to Western High School to teach courses in Biology, Botany, Welding, and Environmental Horticulture. In 1993 Mrs. Drabant began teaching Environmental Horticulture at the Area Technical Trade Center. During her tenure at the Trade Center, Amber sought to provide her students with the opportunities to participate in various internships where they gain real-world experiences which prepare them for positions in the horticulture industry and post-secondary school education.

Amber has received both state and local recognition for her many years as a skilled educator. In 1979, she was named as Nevada's Vocational Teacher of the Year and in 1993–94 and 1995–96 Mrs. Drabant was honored as the Kiwanis Teacher of the Year. Finally, as a direct result of Amber's efforts, Area Technical Trade Center and Moapa Valley High School received a \$37,000 grant to establish a hydroponics program.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Amber Cornelius Drabant. Her many years of dedicated service to the Clark County School District are to be commended and I wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. STEVE
KANDRA

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, today, the great State of Oregon turns 148 years old. Tomorrow will mark an occasion nearly as momentous when a highly-respected community leader in Oregon, Mr. Steve Kandra, steps down as the president of the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA). I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to the numerous contributions Steve has made to his community and his industry, for without them hundreds of farmers and ranchers in southern Oregon and northern California would have found the past two years a much greater challenge.

As many of us know, most folks would probably be surprised at what life as president of an organization is really like. Often, one is drafted into the position by colleagues to pick up heavy loads, to donate countless hours of time away from family and business, and to forge common ground on difficult issues. Being the president of KWUA is a particularly tough job; Steve heeded the call of his fellow farmers and ranchers for two full terms. As Steve's infectious sense of humor would lead

him to say, "If you don't get it right the first time, try, try again."

His fellow members at KWUA would tell you that they pleaded with him to lead the association because he is extremely smart, dedicated, experienced, respected, and sincere. That's an impressive combination of personal qualities, and they sum Steve Kandra up well.

The farmers and ranchers of the Klamath Basin are no strangers to serious challenges. When the federal government unjustly shut off their water from the Klamath Project in 2001, over 1,000 farming and ranching families' livelihoods, and the community that depends on their well-being, faced disaster. The climb back for the agriculture community is by no means complete and has demanded smart and dedicated leadership. Steve Kandra provided just that. Steve spent countless hours attending meetings and hearings, leading tours of the Klamath Basin, granting interviews, and delivering compelling presentations. His duties as president often took precedence over family affairs and the demands of farming. Anyone who knows Steve knows he is a hands-on guy who will not be deterred when the tough issues require significant personal involvement, a substantial knowledge base, and a broad range of relationships.

The "Just Say No" campaign clearly did not resonate with Steve. He is also a past president of Tulelake Rotary, Klamath County Farm Bureau, Oregon Hay & Forage Association, Klamath Basin Hay Growers, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, and Klamath Irrigation District. Steve is a board member of Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation and Shaw Historical Library Board of Governors, and an elder at Merrill First Presbyterian Church. Lest my colleagues think that is all Steve has managed to occupy his time with, amazingly there's more. He has also been a board member of the Klamath County Economic Development Association, Upper Klamath Basin Working Group, Klamath Irrigation District, and Oregon Water Resources Congress, just to name a few volunteer activities. I suppose the saying is true: If you need something done, ask a busy man.

While Steve and his lovely wife, Nancy, will both remain very engaged in the struggle to provide stability for agriculture in the Klamath Basin, I suspect that Nancy will be popping a bottle of champagne tomorrow night in celebration of Steve's retirement as president of KWUA. Together they have successfully navigated a long and winding road, and a celebration of achievement is certainly in order.

Madam Speaker and my fellow House members, please join me in congratulating Steve Kandra, an outstanding community leader and family man who I am proud to call my friend.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLOR BROWN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willor Brown of Ypsilanti, Michigan. This April, Mr. Brown along with the other members of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, will be honored with the Congressional

Gold Medal. This great recognition comes after the Tuskegee Airmen overcame discrimination, prejudice and institutional segregation bring about the full integration of the Armed Forces.

During World War II Mr. Brown served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. As a fighter pilot, his mission was to ensure the safety of American bombers as they came back to base from missions over Germany and Italy. Mr. Brown and the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen performed this job with both bravery and great success, as evidence by the fact that not a single bomber was lost to enemy fire during the Tuskegee Airmen's service. This service was even more remarkable given that fact that they continually faced the humiliation of segregation, even as they excelled beyond the expectations of any unit.

After seeing an article about aviation at Tuskegee, Alabama, Mr. Brown used his skill in math to pass the Army's program tests. He arrived in Alabama in December 1942, in time to have the great honor of meeting Tuskegee University's founder George Washington Carver. Mr. Brown studied at Tuskegee for nearly a year before he had the opportunity to serve overseas in Europe.

Although Willor Brown and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen served our Nation bravely in combat during World War II, they also helped to bring about the necessary integration of our Armed Forces. The Tuskegee Airmen wore our Nation's uniform without the honor given to other service members. However, with tremendous success, remarkable service and amazing accomplishments, the Tuskegee Airmen shattered the notions of inferiority and opened up the opportunities the following generations of minority service members have had access to. The social injustice and setbacks they faced at home could not stop the Airmen from fulfilling their mission and their service abroad changed the perceptions of their place at home.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a great honor; Mr. Brown along with the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen have certainly earned this distinction. I honor Willor Brown for his bravery in battle; his determination to succeed even with great barriers before him; and for the example he has set not just for African American or minority members, but for all of the men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. I join with a grateful Nation to thank Mr. Brown for his service to this country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH
BONAVENTURE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Joseph Bonaventure, for his years of dedicated public service to the Las Vegas community.

Judge Bonaventure began his legal career as an attorney in Las Vegas over three decades ago. Joseph then felt that his calling was public service and began a 28-year tenure on the bench. He is known as one of the most colorful judges in the history of Southern Nevada and easily the most well known judge

the District Court bench has seen. Joseph has presided over many of the region's most high-profile trials. From 1998 until 2001 he oversaw at least 10 high profile cases including the infamous case of Rick Tabish, Sandy Murphy, Margaret Rudin, Timmy "T.J." Weber, and Jeremy Strohmeier. He has also presided over the murder trial of Tony Amati who was once on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List. His contributions to the jurisprudence and law and order have greatly enhanced the lives of countless citizens of Southern Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Judge Joseph Bonaventure. His long and distinguished career on the District Court is admirable and his expertise will be greatly missed. I wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN HAAS

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker I would like to mark Karen L. Haas' last day as Clerk of the House with a word of personal thanks.

When I asked Karen to be Clerk in the fall of 2005 she wasn't sure she could do the job or even wanted it. I never doubted her talents and her ability to do the job, nor did anyone who knew her. Luckily for us, she agreed to my request, and the House wisely elected her to the position of Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I knew Karen would bring intelligence and integrity to the position, and she has. She brought her perfectionist work ethics to the job, working the long hours even after the House had adjourned and everyone else had gone home. When there were difficulties to face, Karen did it with a level head, common sense, and the best interest of this institution as her guide.

Karen's love for this institution would permeate in everything she did in office and influenced those having the privilege to work beside her. My only regret is that her tenure was too short.

Before she was named as Clerk of the House, Karen ably served the Speaker's staff as a floor assistant. She made sure the right people were in the Speaker's chair each day and for every debate. She assisted me with our committee assignments and always had a ready answer for any question. Karen was also responsible for my appointments to boards and commissions, and she helped recruit some fine public servants to serve in those positions.

Before working in my office, she worked for my friend and mentor from Illinois, Bob Michel. She had good teachers there, and it was there that she developed the talents that would serve her and this House so well in the future.

I also want to thank Karen's family for sharing her with us. The night that she was elected Clerk, her family sat in the Speaker's gallery as she was sworn in. You could see in their faces how proud they were of their daughter, sister, wife and mother. Mark, her husband, and her children, Amanda and Brett, have sacrificed much in order that the House could benefit from Karen's talents. I want to acknowledge them and thank them as well for sharing with us one of the finest public serv-

ants I have ever known. Thank you, Karen, for a job well done.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 98TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 44, "Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 98th anniversary."

Coretta Scott King once said that "struggle is a never-ending process and freedom is never really won—you earn it and win it in every generation." And since 1909, generations of Americans who have fought for racial equality and the expansion of liberty have had a friend and advocate in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

While its name entails that the NAACP seeks to advance the fortunes of African Americans, I believe that its true mission is to advance the goals of all Americans—for when we move closer to becoming a beacon of hope and opportunity for all people, regardless of race or ethnicity, we all reap the benefits.

When the light of social justice is shined in the dark corners where prejudice and bigotry still exist, our nation becomes stronger. When people who had been mistreated and oppressed become empowered to take steps towards the American Dream, our nation becomes stronger. And when we take actions that elevate the things that unite us above those that drive us apart, our nation becomes stronger.

And that is what the NAACP is all about—strengthening our nation by reminding us that while we have come a long way in our struggle for freedom and equality, we are not yet perfect, and must always remain vigilant in pursuit of a world where all men and women are treated with the respect and dignity that all human beings possess.

I'm proud to be a member of the NAACP. I'm proud to be from the state that the NAACP has called home for so many years. And I'm grateful that the NAACP has provided such strong and talented partners in working for social justice both in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District and throughout our nation as a whole.

I'd like to congratulate the NAACP on 98 years of promoting what is best about America—and I look forward to continuing to work together with NAACP members toward our shared goals of equality and prosperity for all.

I urge all Members to support this important bill.

80TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO ROGER "BUCK" HILL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to the lifetime of artistic achieve-

ments of tenor saxophonist Roger "Buck" Hill, an outstanding jazz musician from Washington, D.C., who celebrates his 80th birthday this week with a performance at the Smithsonian Jazz Cafe on Friday, February 16, 2007.

Buck Hill was the featured performer at the very first Congressional Black Caucus Jazz Forum and Concert that I hosted back in 1985. He was a first-call artist for me back then, and he continues to be just that, here and around the world.

Buck Hill recently released "Relax", his first recording as a band leader in nearly 15 years. It marks the reemergence of one of America's greatest national treasures onto the international jazz scene.

As he approaches his 80th birthday Hill remains a vital voice on his instrument, with a robust personal sound that reaches back to the horn's early masters like Lester Young, and onward into the glory days of bebop and beyond, recalling John Coltrane.

A lifelong resident of Washington, D.C., Hill first studied music with the same teacher who instructed a young Duke Ellington, and went on to become a member of the house band in the city's world famous Howard Theater. A fixture on the Capital jazz scene for over sixty years, Hill revealed his enormous talent to the world beginning in the late seventies with a series of excellent records for Steeplechase and Muse. Guest appearances on several of fellow D.C. legend Shirley Horn's albums brought him widespread critical and popular notice in the 1990s before he once again returned to his hometown.

Hill's most recent work proves that he's still one of the best tenor men in jazz today. The group, featuring his regular bandmates John Ozment at the Hammond organ and Jerry Jones on drums, plus Paul Pieper on guitar, offers up straight-ahead jazz on an eight song program split evenly between the leader's own original compositions and classic jazz material.

The return of Buck Hill to the world of jazz recording is indeed a momentous occasion and cause for celebration. Hill plays the tenor with the authoritative voice of experience and his well-seasoned sound is a link to the saxophone's glorious past and a lesson to those who wish to move the horn into the future. His work is a true testament not just to his longevity, but also to his continued growth as a master saxophonist, bandleader and composer.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ADAM SCHULTHEIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Mr. Adam Schultheis, an exceptional music teacher at Boulder City High School whose work has recently earned him a student-nominated Outstanding American Teacher Honor Roll.

For more than 20 years Adam has served the students of Boulder City with his dedication and commitment to excellence in music education. Adam earned his bachelor's degree in music education and performance at the University of Arizona Tucson while studying on a full scholarship. He then went on to earn his

master's degree in elementary education from Nova University in Florida.

Adam began his teaching career in Boulder City at Elton Garrett Elementary School before moving to Boulder City High School where he currently teaches. Adam is recognized by students and parents alike for his patience, kindness, and knowledge. His efforts have earned him many awards including the prestigious Disney American Teacher Award and the Veterans of Foreign Wars' National Citizenship Education Teachers Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Mr. Adam Schultheis and his many achievements. His dedication to the community and to music education is remarkable. I wish Mr. Schultheis continued success in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS KENDALL
CIESEMIER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kendall Ciesemier of Wheaton for her outstanding volunteer efforts and service to others.

At just 14 years old, Kendall is the founder of Kids Caring 4 Kids, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS epidemic currently devastating Africa. Through community outreach and fundraising, Kendall has made an incredible difference in the lives of AIDS orphans in a village in Zambia.

In spite of her recent personal struggle with two liver transplants, Kendall has tirelessly directed her remarkable talent and energy to serving others. To date, she has raised over \$50,000 and just this week was recognized as one of the nation's top youth volunteers by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

I commend Kendall for her strength of character and selfless community service.

Kendall, your family, your school, and your community are extremely proud of what you've accomplished. I wish you all the best in the future. Keep up the good work!

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LEO T. MCCARTHY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, the following are the remarks of remembrance given by the Honorable Art Agnos, former Mayor of San Francisco and long time member of the California Legislature on the occasion of the vigil and rosary of his former boss, mentor, and brother-friend, the Honorable Leo T. McCarthy, who passed away on February 5, 2007.

I never thought this day would come for me.

Over the 40 years I worked for Leo McCarthy, I came to think of him as indestructible . . . as he became my boss . . . my mentor . . . my role model . . . and simply my best friend.

For me, Leo was never sick . . . never tired . . . never discouraged . . . and never gave up . . . no matter what confronted him.

He just showed up every day ready to tackle every challenge that stood in the way of making life better for the poor, the needy, the worker, the children, the aged and anyone else who might need his help in our society.

Leo was one of those rare public officials who got better in every way . . . the closer you got to him.

There were no feet of clay here.

One of my early remembrances of him is on our first trip to Sacramento together in December of 1968.

Leo had just been elected to the assembly and it was my first week on the job as his new assistant. On that day he wanted us to drive together to checkout the new office and meet with the Assembly leader Jess Unruh to discuss his committee assignments.

I remember that it was raining hard that day, pouring, and in what was to become our routine for the next 10 years—I was driving and he was teaching, as we talked about the issues of the day and what we might do about them in the year to come.

Just as we passed Dixon on Highway 80, the rear tire went flat and I had to pull over. As I came to a stop, Leo said suddenly, "Wait here, opened the car door in the pouring rain and ran through a hayfield the length of a football stadium to a service station to get help with the flat tire.

I stayed in the car warm and dry.

He was still soaking wet through his suit when we got to Sacramento. Undaunted, he kept his appointment with Unruh as though nothing had happened.

And that's the way it was, every time.

He never asked his staff, and there were hundreds of us by the end of his political career, to do anything he wouldn't do. He cared about all of us, our careers—our families, our well being.

Every one of his former staff will tell you similar stories about when he would apologize for taking them away from their family when they had to work late on legislative testimony for the next day, or how he would show up at the Operating Engineers at 2 in the morning with food and encouragement as we printed brochures to help elect another candidate who would vote for him to be Speaker in 1974.

And what a Speakership that was!

The best description I ever heard was from the former Republican Speaker of the Assembly, Bob Monagan from Tracy, California.

Bob had left the legislature some years before and was the President of the California Manufacturers Association when he said Leo McCarthy's Speakership would be remembered in the history of the California Legislature as the "Days of Lancelot."

You see, Leo was a leader who inspired other politicians—not with his power or tactics, but with his integrity, his adherence to good principle, and his deep commitment to the common good.

In all his years, there were no scandals, no innuendos, no shameful disgrace, and the legislature followed his example in doing the best work it ever did for the people of California.

That's not me talking. It is every editorial written in every major newspaper since last Tuesday.

Over the last 7 months, I saw a lot of him in the hospital, as did many of you.

We talked about his career, successes and failures. We soon ran out of failures, but the successes went on for ever. But I had to bring them up—Coastal preservation, Nursing Home reform, Farm Worker legislation, Subdivision Reform, Mental Health, Child nutrition, Human rights, Legislative Transparency and on and on.

But most of all, most of all, as great and prodigious the volume of his work, Leo was proudest of his family.

Jackie was the light of his life. She was his love, his energy, his will to live as they raised four magnificent children you will hear from tomorrow morning.

And then you will know for yourselves why he always answered the question: "What was your most important work—with a resounding, 'My family!'"

The things he did to try and make his contribution as a father and a husband are legendary to all of us.

You have heard and read the thousands of roundtrips to and from Sacramento by car, greyhound bus, and even airplane.

It was all very real because the kids were going to see their father every night no matter what. He always said that Jackie did all the work, but he had to be there for whatever he could do at night.

One of my favorite stories starts one morning when I could not drive him and he drove himself down to the greyhound station to catch the 7 a.m. bus to Sacramento.

He was late and very much focused on the busy day to come in the Legislature. So he sped into the parking lot, jumped out of the car, tossed the keys and 20 bucks to the man standing by the pay booth while running to catch the bus.

That night I got a call from a perplexed Leo asking where his car was because the lot was empty and the attendant was gone. For three days he did not believe me when I tried to tell him that there was no attendant at that lot because it was self pay.

We didn't talk about it again for a while because on the fourth day he learned the car had been found intact by the SFPD with an empty gas tank. And the rumor was that some homeless guy was going around town telling about the nice guy who tossed the keys to him with 20 bucks and ran off.

The longest trip home for Leo was one he took this past January.

He had been in the hospital for 6 consecutive months—something neither he, his family, or any of us could have imagined when we watched him being wheeled into UC hospital on June 1st of last year—not to mention the countless number of difficult tests in all kinds of machines, hundreds of needle sticks, a combined month and a half in the intensive care unit, dialysis every other day, cups of awful tasting medicinal concoctions, and bravely fight harder than ever before as he became weaker and weaker.

But as his body failed, his mind and spirit did not.

There were several times when he was asked, "Do you want to go on?"

And every time—every time—his answer was the same. "Yes! I have things to do."

He was planning family vacations next year with Jackie. He was advising Kevin about jobs after Law School. He was listening carefully to Courtney's added responsibilities at work, talking to Niall about a big case, he was thinking about Adam's new environmental business deals—he absorbed all of Conna's scholastic and athletic news about her children—he listened intently as Sharon discussed the latest events at St. Stephens—he studied writeups about outstanding college football players and discussed them with Dale so he could make the best choices for his famous annual top 10 NFL Draft choices list he published to family and selected friends, and occasionally to Bill Walsh at the 49ers.

He did all this from a hospital bed he was too weak to get out of, all the while monitoring and mentoring by phone and in person, one more politician—the future Speaker of the House of Representatives.

He loved the phone calls and visits from Nancy and her right arm and another former McCarthy staffer, Representative Anna Eshoo. Every week they were in town—they

were at the hospital checking up and giving Leo updates and details on the key races—information the Republicans would have paid dearly for.

And when he was too sick to talk, Nancy and Anna would call me for a report.

Nancy got the short report because she was in an airport somewhere—and Anna got the long report because she had time to sort out the information in between our tears.

On election night last November, Leo was in intensive care again and unable to take Nancy's call to tell him of the democrats' victory.

Several days later he was back in his room and we were watching a live CNN report showing Nancy and President Bush on the Speaker Elect's historic first visit to the Oval Office.

As the news report ended, shortly thereafter, the phone in the room rang, and it was Nancy herself calling to check up on him and give him a report on her meeting with George Bush.

I think he was prouder of Nancy's Speaker-victory more than his own.

Yes, Leo never gave up.

He said once to Mary Leslie, another terrific staffer during the Senate Campaigns that "Defeat will show you another way to make a difference."

That was Leo McCarthy.

So when he left elective office, he committed himself to his successful business interests to secure his family's future because his political interests sure never did.

And succeed he did—fulfilling a goal to fund a family foundation for poor children as well as begin the Leo T. McCarthy Institute for Public Service and the Common Good.

Today—on the campus of this great University, thanks to the support and encouragement of Father President Steve Privett, the leadership of Board President Joe Cotchett, and the day to day guidance of Dr. Patrick Murphy, the ideals, values, integrity, and lessons of Leo's life are blended with academics and real time internships in a spectacular opportunity for students.

In the years to come—more of the people who shared Leo's commitment and vision will have a chance to share their remembrances and lessons with USF students, and in so doing perpetuate the meaning of a life so well lived.

It was a blessing for me to have been so close to Leo McCarthy and his family.

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE MONTGOMERY, SHERIFF SEVIER COUNTY

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Bruce Montgomery, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away February 9, 2007 after an extended battle with illness.

Sheriff Bruce Montgomery lived a life of service in law enforcement and his local church. He was a member and Chairman of the Deacons at First Baptist Church in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Bruce was very active in his church. He was interested building the church and taking care of people in need.

Sheriff Montgomery took office in Sevier County in 1994 and continued to serve in this capacity until his passing. Bruce served with

distinction and the efficiency that is a model to all law enforcement in our nation. He was caring, but firm in all of his dealings.

He also served his country as a United States Marshal for 23 years, as Marshal for the Eastern District of the state of Tennessee and as Deputy United States Marshal.

Bruce Montgomery displayed excellence as a law enforcement officer, as a compassionate leader in his church, and most of all a caring husband, father, grandfather and a friend. He was known for treating encounters with presidents and paupers with the same genuine smile and indisputable compassion.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Bruce Montgomery. He was a dedicated family man, a foundation in his church, and a superior law enforcement officer.

His service is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF NWIHRC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHR will be celebrating its 5th anniversary by hosting a gala dinner and banquet on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana.

The Indian American Cultural Center, which opened on March 9, 2002, was established with the following goal in mind: to foster peace and harmony amongst the people of Northwest Indiana by showcasing their cultural heritage and creating spiritual awareness in both youth and adults, as well as to engage in various charitable events, both nationally and locally. Since its inception, the Indian American Cultural Center has been instrumental in educating Northwest Indiana's citizens on the traditions and customs of the Indian heritage.

The members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHR are to be commended, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their commitment to making improvements that benefit all mankind. Proceeds from this year's gala, which throughout the years has demonstrated the immense generosity of its attendees and organizers, will go to support the needs of Habitat for Humanity. In the past, proceeds from the gala have gone to such noble causes as cancer research, educational scholarships, and tsunami relief, as well to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Kashmir, India.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the board and members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHR for their outstanding contributions to society. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, due to a death in my family I needed to depart Washington, DC, last week and missed several votes on February 8, 2007.

Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on: rollcall vote 87, the Hastings of Florida amendment; rollcall vote 88, the Rogers (MI) amendment; rollcall vote 89, the Weller amendment; rollcall vote 90, the Cantor amendment; and rollcall vote 92, final passage of H.R. 547.

I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 91, the Motion to Recommit.

TRIBUTE TO THIRLEE SMITH, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise in sadness over the demise of the late Thirlee Smith, Jr. the first Black reporter at The Miami Herald. His role in the education of the children of Miami-Dade County is foremost in his achievements, having focused his attention on African-American history that it became an important part of the school system's curriculum. I join my fellow citizens in mourning the passing of this great leader, whose "going home" services will be celebrated this Thursday, February 15, 2007 at Miami's St. Agnes Episcopal Church.

Mr. Smith was the quintessential community leader. Not only did he write about the struggles and challenges impacting Blacks in Southern Florida, but he also symbolized tremendous hope for the youth to whom he bequeathed his unique brand of adventure that shed light on the mastery of basic skills and scholastic achievement. He has had to make sense of the malicious intent of segregation in his writing at The Miami Herald, but the lessons he learned from his parents, Thirlee Smith, Sr. and Beulah, epitomized his unshakable faith in the majesty of a loving God.

Having attended Liberty City Elementary School, he would soon represent the first graduating class of Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 1956. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history and Master's degree in Education at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He applied for a writer's job at The Miami Herald, but was unceremoniously told that the community was "not ready" for a Black reporter. Despite this rebuff, he was featured in 1960 in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

He paved his way for a teaching career in the District of Columbia's public school system in 1961. In 1967 he returned home to teach in the Miami-Dade County Schools, and was simultaneously chosen as the first Black writer for the Miami Herald. After a post-graduate 4-year stint at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., he was promoted in 1997 as District Coordinator for African American History.

When I reminisce about the role that this great writer and educator played in fashioning

the future of our community, it is clear that it parallels much of our state's history as it struggled through the agonies of racial equality and educational opportunity under the aegis of simple justice for all Americans. All throughout the segregation era, this young visionary gave us hope and courage through his writings, engaging our parents and their children to keep faith toward helping them achieve basic skills mastery and academic excellence.

Blessed with a lucid common sense and quick grasp of the simmering issues at hand, Mr. Smith, Jr. was also imbued with the rare wisdom of recognizing both the strength and the promise of a good education. The acumen of his intelligence and the timeliness of his vision were felt at a time when our community needed someone to put in perspectives the agony of disenfranchised Blacks and other minorities yearning to belong.

Indeed, he exemplified a clam but reasoned leadership whose courage and wisdom appealed to our noblest character as a nation. This is the magnificent legacy by which we will honor his memory.

SUPPORT FOR THE MINORITY
DIABETES INITIATIVE ACT

HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1031, the Minority Diabetes Initiative Act. Sponsored by my esteemed colleague, Representative Maxine Waters, this important legislation will establish initiatives to provide grants to physicians, community-based organizations and other health care providers for diabetes care and treatment program in minority communities. It is of utmost importance that Congress take decisive action on this common-sense legislation that will benefit those struggling with diabetes.

It is no secret that many serious health problems plague our nation's minority communities. Faced with tough economic obstacles, issues of access to health care, health education, and affordability of health care all contribute to a rising trend of heart disease, cancer, obesity, and diabetes among minorities. Diabetes is a leading cause of kidney failure, new blindness in adults, and leg and foot amputations. Diabetes is a major cause of heart disease and stroke, which are responsible for about 65% of deaths among diabetics.

Unfortunately, diabetes is a disease that is rampant in my district, the island of Puerto Rico, and the statistics plainly prove that this is a serious problem. Official statistics put forth by the Puerto Rico Diabetes Association say that approximately 560,000 persons, including 75,000 children, are diabetic. Fifteen percent of the Island's population lives with diabetes. Compared to all of Latin America and the Caribbean, Puerto Rico has the most cases of diabetes among women ages 20 to 79, and amongst these women, diabetes is the third leading cause of death on the Island. According to CDC data published in 2000, the national diabetes death rate for Hispanics/Latinos was highest among Puerto Ricans (172 per 100,000), followed by the rates for Mexican Americans (122 per 100,000), and

Cuban Americans (47 per 100,000). Clearly this is a pervasive problem not only in Puerto Rico, but among minority communities across the nation. Congress can help by moving this critical legislation towards passage.

Among minorities, two of the major obstacles to adequate health care are lack of good information and language barriers. Many minorities, in particular new immigrants, do not understand the process of how the Federal health care system works, and have a hard time understanding new programs that are disseminated through traditional means of English-language ad campaigns or pamphlets they find at the clinic or doctors' office. Many don't have access to even general information—if they can't afford decent health care, how will they afford a laptop with Internet access, or even know where to access reliable information? And, in very rural areas, many debate the use of traditional versus conventional medicine, which presents a whole other set of challenges to health care education, disease treatment and prevention, and information dissemination. As you can see, in Puerto Rico, an approach to health care that is linguistically and culturally sensitive is absolutely critical to any patient's well-being. One of the many positive aspects of this bill is that it requires health care providers to make available culturally and linguistically appropriate services and conduct outreach activities to let eligible individuals know that services are available. This will enable providers to access and assist diabetics who are not being reached, and who need help.

This bill is a sensible and culturally appropriate solution to effectively treat minorities with the disease. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation, and advise Congressional Leadership to move this bill towards swift passage, so we can help make better health care choices and treatment more accessible to minorities living with diabetes.

TRIBUTE TO RA JOY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, March 5, 2007 will be both a happy and a sad day for me. On that Monday, Ra Joy, who has served as Suburban Director and Grants Coordinator in my district office for 6 of the 8 years I have served in Congress, will be leaving.

Ra will become Executive Director of the Illinois Arts Alliance, the largest and most prestigious arts advocacy organization in the state. He will follow the widely and highly respected Alene Valkanas who built the Arts Alliance over the past two decades, leading the effort that quadrupled the state's funding for the arts. Hers are very big shoes to fill, yet I have great confidence in Ra's ability to move the organization forward to meet the challenges of the new century.

Ra came to work for me as a very young man but with the promise of being a great leader. He had worked with youth at the Evanston YMCA, where he served as a role model and mentor for many African-American boys in our community. When he left the Y, he didn't leave the boys who continue to rely on his support and counsel.

Ra has a quiet self-assurance, a seriousness of purpose that inspires all those he supervises and works with. He has unfailing good judgment and an ability to understand and communicate complex issues. This makes him very effective in working with community leaders, individual constituents, the business community and not-for-profit organizations in the 9th District.

As Grants Coordinator, Ra has been a leading force in bringing tens of millions of dollars to the 9th District—federal dollars for infrastructure improvements, law enforcement, and social services, as well as private foundation support for dozens of organizations. He has shepherded these funding requests and applications through public and private bureaucracies and then monitored the management of the funds. He has held workshops to help non-profit organizations garner and manage the resources they need to flourish, including one aimed exclusively at art organizations.

Ra is an artist. His charcoal drawings demonstrate his technical skill, his passions and his politics. He comes from an artistic family—his father, Albert Joy, is a painter, and his sister Ebony Joy is a playwright. His beautiful home, shared with his wife Falona and sons, reflects his artistic sense.

Ra's connection to the arts community has had special significance for the 9th District, which, before my tenure, was represented for nearly a half century by Sidney Yates. Congressman Yates was revered as a patron of the arts and protector of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. My constituents have appreciated my continued focus on the arts, led by Ra Joy.

Ra has served as the Chairman of the annual Ethnic Arts Festival on Evanston's lakefront, a major event attracting visual and musical artists and craftspeople. He organized the Artistic Discovery competition each year, in which one high school student per Congressional District is selected to have his or her work displayed for a year in the Capitol, making it a significant juried art show. Dozens of students participate in an event at which all of their work is displayed, and all are honored.

I and the rest of my staff will miss his advocacy for the arts as part of our staff, but we rejoice that he is taking his passion to a higher level. We trust that he will now be in a position to offer his assistance as we continue to address the need to support the arts in our community.

I congratulate the Illinois Arts Alliance for its wise decision to choose Ra Joy as its new Director. I wish him great fulfillment and success.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 2007, to end discriminatory and unnecessary congressional review of District of Columbia legislation. Basic to the meaning of self government in the United

States is the right to enact a local budget and civil and criminal laws free from Federal interference. I have already introduced this bill's fraternal twin, the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2007, cosponsored by Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member TOM DAVIS.

Because the period of congressional review involves only legislative days, when Congress is in session, not ordinary calendar days, D.C. laws typically do not become law for months, not days. A required hold on all D.C. bills forces the D.C. City Council to pass most legislation using a cumbersome and complicated process in which bills are passed concurrently on an emergency, temporary, and permanent basis to ensure that the operations of the large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted, and because of the complications and time frames involved, some bills do not become law at all. The Legislative Autonomy Act would eliminate the need for the City Council to engage in this Byzantine process that often requires a two-thirds super majority even for ordinary legislation.

The legislative autonomy bill would eliminate the congressional review period for civil and criminal District acts of 30 days and 60 days respectively. I have repeatedly introduced today's legislative autonomy bill because it has long been obsolete, demeaning, and cumbersome, but also because Congress no longer uses the statute. Congress has eliminated the review or layover period as a way to review Council legislation, yet the Council continues to be bound by Section 602 of the Home Rule Act, absurdly continuing to abide by its awkward and debilitating rules because the law requires it. Our bill would do no more than align D.C. City Council practices.

Although control of the Congress changed in 1994 for the first time in 40 years, no resolution of disapproval has been heard in committee or used on the floor of either house. Instead of the cumbersome formal filing of bills that requires processing in the House and the Senate, the Congress has preferred to use appropriations or attachments. The District strongly opposes all methods of overturning its legitimate local legislation, but it is particularly unfair to require the City Council to engage in the tortuous process prescribed by the Home Rule Act that Congress itself has discarded. My bill would eliminate the formal review system that has died of old age and disuse. Congress has walked away from layover review and should allow the city to do the same.

Today's bill, of course, does not prevent review of District laws by Congress. Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the House and the Senate could scrutinize every piece of legislation passed by the City Council, if desired, and could change or strike legislation under the plenary constitutional authority over the District. However, since the Home Rule Act became effective in 1974, of more than 2000 legislative acts that have been passed by the Council and signed into law by the Mayor, only three resolutions of disapproval of a D.C. bill have been enacted, and two of these involved a distinct federal interest. Federal law to correct for a federal interest, of course, would be appropriate for any jurisdiction, but placing a hold on 2000 bills has not only proved unnecessary, but has meant untold costs in money, staff, and wasted time to the District and the Congress. Although 32 years of Home Rule Act history shows that congressional review is unnecessary, this bill merely eliminates the automatic hold placed on local legislation and the need for the City Council to use a phantom process passed for the convenience of Congress that Congress has eliminated in all but law.

Congress continually urges the District government to pursue efficiency and savings. It is time for Congress to do its part to promote greater efficiency both here and in the District by streamlining its own redundant and discarded review processes. Eliminating the hold on D.C. legislation would not only save scarce D.C. taxpayer revenue, but would benefit the city's bond rating, which is effected by the shadow of congressional review that delays the certainty of finality to District legislation. At the same time, Congress would give up none of its plenary power because the Congress may intervene into any District matter at any time under the constitutional provisions.

The limited legislative autonomy granted in this bill would allow the District to realize the greater measure of meaningful self-government and Home Rule it deserves and has more than earned in the 32 years since the Home Rule Act became effective. This goal can be achieved without prejudice to congressional authority. I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE URIBE
AND MARGARET BINFORD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate George Uribe and Margaret Binford who were engaged to be married last night at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

The special moment occurred in Lady Chapel at 7 p.m. surrounded by Margaret's parents, Douglas and Randall Binford who flew in from San Antonio, Texas for the occasion.

The couple walked in the chapel, recited the Lord's prayer with the song "On Eagles Wings" playing in the background as George dropped to his knees and asked Margaret to marry him.

George is an Executive Vice-President and General Manager for a chain of radio stations and former U.S. Army Reserve soldier with the 77th Regional Readiness Command based at Fort Totten and Margaret is an interior designer and member of the Junior League.

Madam Speaker, I, along with the whole House, congratulate George and Margaret on their engagement and wish them happiness and love all the days of their lives.

A TRIBUTE TO DICK RICE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Dick Rice of Bedford, Pennsylvania. Mr. Rice was a longtime Commissioner of Bedford County before his passing last spring. He was known for his boundless energy, his optimistic attitude, a wonderful singing voice and the many issues he championed as a leader of his community. One of those issues dear to Mr. Rice was education. He believed strongly in the importance of providing local, high quality post-secondary education at an affordable cost. But he also showed his commitment by making a real difference in the lives of students. He found joy in presenting students with scholarships, tuition assistance awards, and emergency book funding.

Mr. Rice played a critical role in the development of the Bedford County Campus of Al-

legany College. By serving on the Bedford County Regional Education Foundation he was able to help make significant accomplishments. When the Bedford County Campus was founded in 1990, Bedford County ranked 64th out of 67 Pennsylvania counties in the percentage of high school graduates pursuing post-secondary education. Today, Bedford County is ranked 34th. The presence of a local campus has encouraged many area students to begin or continue their educational journeys close to home. Since 1990, more than 6,500 people have taken classes through the Bedford County Campus. The Foundation has worked to provide more than \$190,000 to more than 700 of those students over the past 11 years. It is fitting that the Foundation has now established the Dick M. Rice Memorial Scholarship Endowment, to benefit Bedford County residents who attend Allegany College.

To cite each accomplishment and individual contribution that Dick has been a part of would take a very long time. His involvement in the educational community over the years has been immense and has touched numerous lives. We are all very grateful for his effort toward positive enrichment of Bedford County, and I offer my sincerest sympathies for the loss of such a great citizen.

TRAGEDY IN KHOJALY,
AZERBAIJAN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition.

Today, as the Co-chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, I would like to bring to the attention of this body the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992. Fifteen years later, there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan.

Sadly, Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. This crime led to the death of 613 civilians; including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly men; 1,275 persons were taken hostage, and the fate of more than 150 remains unknown.

As part of the population tried to escape the town of Khojaly, they encountered violent ambushes and were murdered. According to the Russian organization, Memorial, 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days, and it was discovered that they were subjected to abuses, torture and mutilation. Human Rights Watch stated that "we place direct responsibility for the civilian deaths with Karabakh Armenian forces."

At the time, Newsweek Magazine reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children

of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped.”

Time Magazine stated “While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown.”

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) from Albania, Azerbaijan, and the United Kingdom stated in May 2001 in Written Declaration No. 324 that the “Armenians massacred the whole population of Khojaly and fully destroyed the town.”

Khojaly was the first significant Azerbaijani settlement overrun by Armenian forces in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The forces next overran the Nagorno-Karabakh districts of Zangilan, Gubadli, Fuzuli, Aghdam, and Kalbajar, as well as the towns of Shusha and Lachin. Altogether, the occupied territories represent roughly 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan. And, altogether roughly one million Azerbaijanis were evicted from their homes over the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijan war.

On January 25, 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe overwhelmingly adopted a resolution highlighting that “considerable parts of Azerbaijan’s territory are still occupied by the Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.”

Armenian Defense Minister, in an interview with British journalist Tomas de Waal openly admitted that “Before Khojaly the Azerbaijanis thought that . . . the Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype].” Madam Speaker, the tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge Congress to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

INTRODUCING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE ACT AND THE TAXPAYER FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce two bills relating to abortion. These bills stop the federal government from promoting abortion. My bills accomplish this goal by prohibiting federal funds from being used for population control or “family planning” through exercising Congress’s constitutional power to restrict federal court’s jurisdiction by restoring each state’s authority to protect unborn life.

Abortion on demand is no doubt the most serious sociopolitical problem of our age. The lack of respect for life that permits abortion significantly contributes to our violent culture

and our careless attitude toward liberty. Whether a civilized society treats human life with dignity or contempt determines the outcome of that civilization. Reaffirming the importance of the sanctity of life is crucial for the continuation of a civilized society. There is already strong evidence that we are on the slippery slope toward euthanasia and non-consensual human experimentation. Although the real problem lies within people’s hearts and minds, the legal problems of protecting life stem from the ill-advised Roe v. Wade ruling, where the court usurped the state’s authority over abortion.

One of the bills I am introducing today, the Sanctity of Life Act of 2005, reverses some of the damage done by Roe v. Wade. The Sanctity of Life Act provides that the federal courts of the United States, up to and including the Supreme Court, do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. Congress must use the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution to rein in rogue federal judges from interfering with a state’s ability to protect unborn life.

In addition to restricting federal court jurisdiction over abortion, Congress must stop the unconstitutional practice of forcing Americans to subsidize abortion providers. It is not enough to say that “family planning” groups may not use federal funds to perform or promote abortion. After all, since money is fungible, federal funding of any activities of these organizations forces taxpayers to underwrite the organizations’ abortion activities. This is why I am also introducing the Taxpayer Freedom of Conscience Act. The Taxpayer Freedom of Conscience Act prohibits any federal official from expending any federal funds for any population control or population planning program or any family planning activity. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, it is “sinful and tyrannical” to force the American taxpayers to subsidize programs and practices they find morally abhorrent.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of these two bills. By following the Constitution and using the power granted to the Congress by the Constitution, we can restore respect for freedom of conscience and the sanctity of human life.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE CHARLIE NORWOOD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of my esteemed colleague and friend, the Honorable CHARLES WHITLOW NORWOOD, Jr. of Georgia’s Tenth Congressional District.

Yesterday, we lost an inspiring public servant to complications from his eight year battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. All who knew him and worked with him recognized and appreciated his hard work. Throughout his

seven terms in Congress, CHARLIE served on the Education and the Workforce Committee as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. He also served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which included two terms as Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health. Fueled by a sincere interest in helping others, his colleagues knew he was not working for himself but for the people.

CHARLIE is well-known for introducing the first comprehensive managed health care reform legislation to Congress in 1995. He truly left his mark in legislation with reforms on patient’s rights, education, private property rights, telecommunications, and environmental regulations.

CHARLIE was dedicated to public service throughout his entire life, not only as a Member of Congress, but also as a dentist, a Vietnam Veteran, a small businessman, and a man of great faith. He and wife were active in their local United Methodist Church, as well as, members of the Augusta Opera Society and Augusta Symphony Guild. In every aspect of his life, he was recognized with countless awards and honors which illustrate how his contributions to his community were limitless.

We have not lost a colleague—we have lost a good friend.

The Honorable CHARLIE NORWOOD is survived by his wife Gloria, sons Charles and Carlton Norwood, and four grandchildren, all of Augusta. We will continue to hear of his service well into the future as CHARLIE’S legacy will, without a doubt, live on.

Mr. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the life of the Honorable CHARLES WHITLOW NORWOOD, Jr. and his living legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since the program’s inception in 2000, I have been a proud participant.

For the past seven years, 12 students from all across Australia are selected to participate in the eight-week Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, an opportunity that exposes them to the administrative and legislative processes that underpin the functioning of Congress as a democratic institution. Such experiences are invaluable opportunities for these students to gain knowledge and a deep understanding of the internal workings of the United States Government while bringing their own skills and backgrounds to their respective Congressional offices.

The Uni-Capitol Program selects undergraduates from 7 universities by exclusively matching the applicants with Members and Senators who share their views, as well as with various committee offices that relate to their interests and fields of study. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest in learning about and promoting the

U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. I continue to enjoy the interaction that frequently occurs between my Australian and American interns. This, my colleagues, is how we build diplomatic relationships which will ensure that the U.S. and Australia remain friends and allies for years to come.

For the past two months, my office has had the good fortune of hosting an amazing young woman from Australia, Anu Ambikaipalan, who is completing a double degree in law and international studies at Deakin University. Throughout the duration of Anu's tenure in my office, she has conducted herself admirably. Her willingness to learn and contribute to the legislative process through crafting legislation for the state of Florida as well as nationwide, has cemented a relationship indicative of the one the U.S. and Australia have shared for so many years. Anu has fast become an asset to my staff and we will be sorry to see her go.

Anu is participating with 11 other very qualified students. Emmanuel Rohan from the University of Queensland is in Representative MIKE CASTLE's office; Sylvia Gaston from the University of Melbourne is in Representative JAMES CLYBURN's office; Charis Tierney from the University of Queensland is in Senator MIKE CRAPO's office; Nicole Woodmansey from Griffith University is in Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's office; Clare Ashby from the University of Melbourne in the office of Rep. PHILIP ENGLISH; Anna Keenan (University of Queensland is in Representative SAM FARR's office; Nisha Sundaresan from Deakin University is in Senator CHUCK HAGEL's office; Megan Bainbridge from the University of Melbourne is in Representative JERROLD NADLER's office; Stuart Broadfoot from the University of Western Australia is in Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN's office; Jennifer Grant from the University of Queensland is in Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ's office; Michael Ng from the University of Melbourne is with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's majority staff.

As we move to acknowledge the seventh successful year of this program, I would like to commend the founder and director of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program, Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of more than a dozen years, who successfully combined his experience in Washington with his extensive travels and lectures throughout Australia into an ingenious program of diplomatic exchange through cultural appreciation and understanding. I heartily congratulate him on making his vision a reality. This program is the right step in the direction of supporting our young people who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service.

Over the years, my staff and I have greatly benefited from participating in this program, as I believe it continues to provide a unique and important bridge between the United States of America and Australia in many respects, especially in the arena of promoting people to people relationships that are just as key if not more than our military and economic relationships. I have said this in years past, and I will say it again: I implore my colleagues to participate in this worthwhile program when the opportunity is made available.

IN HONOR OF MS. VINNIE MALLOY,
NEW YORK DISTRICT MANAGER/
POSTMASTER, UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I, along with Mr. RANGEL and Mrs. MALONEY rise today to congratulate Ms. Vinnie Malloy on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Postal Service.

Ms. Malloy has broken many barriers throughout her career, which has been marked by excellence. From December 1998 until her retirement on February 2, 2007, Ms. Malloy served as the 37th District Manager and New York City Postmaster, the first woman to hold that distinction. In this position, Ms. Malloy was responsible for the delivery of mail and customer service for millions of residents and business customers in New York City. She managed 62 post offices, 46 stations and 15,000 employees.

Ms. Malloy joined the Postal Service in 1969, at age 21, as a Substitute Distribution Clerk in the James A. Farley Building. In the years that followed, Ms. Malloy held several positions in the Postal Service, including the historic first female Tour Director and Mail Processing Operations Manager in the New York District, as well as first female Bronx Postmaster.

Through mentoring and training, Ms. Malloy has assisted and encouraged many of her employees to seek higher level positions. She has one son and serves on the Senior Usher Board of the Cambria Heights Community Church in Queens, NY.

We are very grateful to Ms. Malloy for her assistance with the hundreds of constituent concerns we have brought to her attention over the years. We wish every government office were as responsive as Ms. Malloy and her staff have been. No matter how big or small the issue, our constituents have always been treated promptly and courteously. During her nearly 38 year career, she has been committed to the residents of Manhattan through her work in the United States Postal Service.

Ms. Malloy paved the way for other female Postal Service employees, and is an inspiration and role model for all women. For her commitment to the Postal Service and her community, it is our privilege to congratulate Vinnie Malloy on her distinguished record of excellence and achievement and upon her retirement.

FREEDOM FOR RAFAEL BENÍTEZ CHUI

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rafael Benítez Chui, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rafael Benítez Chui is a father of three and a peaceful pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Benítez Chui knows with

complete certainty that Cuba must be liberated from the nightmare that is the Castro regime in order for his children and for all the children of Cuba to be able to live in freedom, with the ability to exercise their most basic human rights. Because of his belief in freedom, democracy and a better future for his children, Mr. Benítez Chui became a target for the tyrant's machinery of repression.

As a result of the dictator's condemnable March 2003 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Benítez Chui, along with his wife Migdalia Hernández Enamorado, went to a police unit in Guantánamo to protest the arrest of two of their fellow pro-democracy leaders, Manuel Ubals and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta. Unfortunately, on March 19, 2003 shortly after arriving at the police unit, dictatorship thugs arrested both Mr. Benítez Chui and his wife while they peacefully protested the unjust treatment of their fellow human rights activists.

Unfortunately, their peaceful protest was justification enough for the communist regime to incarcerate Mr. Benítez. On September 18, 2003, after 7 months confinement to a hellish existence in the totalitarian gulag, 7 months after his initial detention, Mr. Benítez Chui was finally, in a sham trial, "sentenced" to 4 years for the alleged crime of "contempt".

Since his incarceration, Mr. Benítez Chui has endured an inhuman horror in the dictatorship's gulags. In 2004, he was severely beaten by regime thugs and robbed of his few personal belongings. When Mr. Benítez Chui attempted to defend himself against the brutal assault, he was placed in a so-called "punishment cell". These "punishment cells" are usually located in the basements of prisons, with continuous dark conditions, no available water, and a hole in the ground for a toilet.

Despite nearly 4 years of brutal, life threatening conditions and continued psychological torture, Mr. Benítez Chui has never wavered in his commitment to the freedom of all the Cuban people. He has never lost his hope that one day his three children will live in a democratic Cuba free of the murderous totalitarian regime that has oppressed Cuba for almost half a century. Mr. Benítez is one of the many heroes of the Cuban pro-democracy movement who are locked up in the dungeons of the dictatorship for believing in a better life for the Cuban people, all of whom are trapped in the horror of the brutal tyranny.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Benítez Chui is representative of the best of the Cuban people, their dignity and their thirst for freedom and democracy. It is unconscionable, in the 21st century, for the world to stand by in silence while valiant men and women are caged by a demented and vile oppressor simply for peacefully expressing opinions. We must demand the immediate freedom of Mr. Benítez Chui and all the prisoners of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

PROJECT BIOSHIELD MATERIAL THREATS ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Project BioShield Material Threats Act of 2007.

The BioShield Program was created to develop and procure medical countermeasures against dangerous chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents. The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for determining threats posed to our country by these agents, and for taking specific steps to protect the nation's citizens from these harms. While I fully support the mission of BioShield, the program has encountered several problems since it was enacted nearly three years ago.

One major shortcoming of the program is a lack of efficiency in the assessment of threats. Rather than examining each threat individually, we should be looking for ways to properly group these threats together, so we can develop appropriate countermeasures to combat multiple threats. My colleagues and I are introducing this legislation to improve and expedite the Department's conduct of Material Threat Determinations (MTD) and the more in-depth Material Threat Assessments (MTA). These MTDs and MTAs will promote a more strategic use of our Nation's resources when procuring medical countermeasures and will ultimately lead to a safer and better-prepared public health infrastructure.

To date, DHS has completed fifteen MTDs. It took well over one year to complete the first six, but the pace picked up considerably since a shift towards less in-depth risk assessments of twenty-nine top threat agents listed by the Centers for Disease Control. The Department leveraged those risk assessments to more quickly complete the next round of MTDs. Soon the Department plans another round of risk assessments that will include more chemical agents. I hope this bill sends a clear message to the Department that we in Congress want to support and improve upon their recent efforts.

Risk is assessed based on a combination of threat, vulnerability, and consequences, and we should encourage the Department to use threat information contained in existing risk assessments to inform and expedite the MTD/MTA process. This bill promotes the use of existing risk assessments if those assessments are considered credible by the Secretary.

Another way to both accelerate and leverage assessments is to conduct them in groups, either by the physical or genetic similarity of the agents themselves or the symptoms they cause. Countermeasures that address more than one threat agent are commonly referred to as "broad spectrum medical countermeasures," and these should be the gold standard for efficient use of BioShield resources. We must move beyond the current "One Bug, One Drug" approach we currently use to the "One Drug for Many Bugs" model that broad spectrum countermeasures offer.

Finally, we all know that time is of the essence as we work to address those agents we already know and ensure we are prepared for emerging threats. The legislation I am introducing today requires all MTDs for CBRN agents that the Secretary determines to be capable of significantly affecting national security to be completed by December 31, 2007.

Madam Speaker, this bill will aid the Department of Homeland Security in conducting threat and risk assessments, which is the first step to countermeasure procurement. We must address those agents—known and emerging, natural or engineered—that present

the highest risk to our citizens, and we must do it quickly. Passage of this measure will help advance and improve that process, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BIRTH, LIFE,
AND LEGACY OF BOB MARLEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the birth, life and legacy of renowned musician, champion of peace, and provocateur of thought; Bob Marley. His music stirred emotions of love; his life inspired the hope of peace. February 6, 1945 marked the beginning of his journey as an ambassador of humanity. Bob Marley was with us such a short time, but left such a rich legacy that on each birthday we ask ourselves what greatness we would have seen if he had lived a full life. We are sad that he died so young and that after all these years he would have just turned 62 this month.

Bob Marley's international appeal is due to his commitment to the unity of mankind. He awakened the consciousness of society as a spokesperson for equality in Africa and for the poor and underprivileged across the world. His efforts to shine a light on the darkest regions across the globe gave a platform to the voiceless to let their stories be heard. Bob Marley was an activist of world peace, and he encouraged us that if we come together "we can make it work."

Bob Marley's ability to empathize with the plight of the poor and destitute is a characteristic that we all must internalize. When we are faced with the widening gap of the haves and have-nots, with our neighbors affected by Hurricane Katrina, and with the citizens of Haiti and Darfur, we must have the compassion and the courage to ensure that all are given the opportunity to live fulfilling lives.

With the revolutionary spirit of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Bob Marley empowered us to realize our inner strength and to continually strive for spiritual maturity. His famous lyrics in "Redemption Song" gave insight in overcoming inner dissonance, advising to "Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds." His conviction to personal growth was seen in his commitment to the principles of his faith, and his unyielding desire for others to become fully actualized human beings.

Having a special talent to recreate the scenes of everyday life, Bob Marley gave us the opportunity to experience the joy, love, pain, and redemption that characterize our humanity through his music. With a message which transcends the reality of which he sung, he speaks to us in this day and time as meaningfully as he did when he lived, leading us to reflect on the complexities of our world, and the enjoyment of the pleasures in our lives.

His numerous awards and accolades reflect his dedication to creating music and a message unhindered by culture, race, time, or space. He and his beloved anthem "One Love" was voted as the most popular international song of the 20th century. Bob Marley's music lives on to remind us to strive

for peace in our society and within ourselves. Because of his contribution to the world of music and the consciousness of humanity, I celebrate the birth, life, and legend of Bob Marley.

INTRODUCING THE FOSTER
CHILDREN SELF SUPPORT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Foster Children Self Support Act." This bill will codify into federal law what should be common sense: abused and neglected children should not be used as a funding stream for states that should be acting in the best interests of these extremely vulnerable children.

In nearly every state in the country, foster children eligible for Social Security benefits because of a disability or the loss of a parent are having those benefits taken by the very state agencies charged with providing for them. The "Foster Children Self Support Act" would end that practice. Instead, it would require states to use a child's Social Security benefits to meet the immediate needs of that child or set aside those benefits to assist the child with transitioning to adulthood when that child emancipates from care.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) estimates that approximately 30,000 foster children (out of 500,000 nationwide) receive either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or OASDI (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) benefits each month. Unfortunately, hardly any of these children will benefit from these funds. Nor will the children have the option to save the money as a nest egg for when they leave care. This is because state child welfare agencies routinely make themselves the representative payee so that they have control over the child's benefits. Often, neither the child nor the child's advocate knows that Social Security benefits are being sent to the agency. Once the welfare agency controls the benefits they are free to use them however they please.

In this manner, state welfare agencies take an estimated \$156 million per year from foster children. The practice has devastating consequences, as evidenced by the case of "John G.," a foster child in North Carolina. John was willed a house when his adoptive father died of cancer. The house had a \$221 monthly mortgage. Luckily for John he was entitled to approximately \$560 in Social Security OASDI benefits. However, the child welfare agency, who had made themselves John's representative payee, decided they would rather keep the money than ensure John had a place to live when he left foster care. Just as his house was about to be foreclosed on, John went to court. Currently, the welfare agency is making the payments under a court order. The future of John's house is still very much in doubt because the agency has appealed and the law may not be on John's side.

Although John G.'s case is particularly egregious, all foster children and former foster children face tremendous challenges. Foster children often enter care having suffered from serious emotional, mental, and/or physical

abuse. For example, they suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at a rate twice as high as Iraq War veterans. Then, when children emancipate from care they are dependent on public assistance, become incarcerated or homeless, and are unemployed at rates higher than nearly any other group of Americans. The "Foster Children Self Support Act" is especially important since it is safe to assume that those children who have lost their parents or are receiving SSI due to severe mental or physical disabilities are among the most needy.

The "Foster Children Self Support Act" provides a way to help these children. It does so by mandating that states develop a plan for foster children with Social Security benefits. The plan would layout how to best use a child's Social Security benefits as a resource to best meet the current and future needs of that child. The plan must be specific to each child receiving Social Security benefits and made in partnership with the child and the child's advocate. If this bill were law, states would no longer be allowed to simply use children's Social Security money as they see fit. Instead, this money would have to be used as any parent would use it: to provide for the child's particular needs and help plan for the child's future.

The bill will:

Require that states screen all foster children for Social Security eligibility and assist them in application;

Require states to identify other appropriate representative payees for eligible children, such as family members, before becoming the payee themselves;

Prohibit states who are payees from using a child's Social Security benefits to reimburse themselves for the cost of foster care;

Require states to develop a plan, with a child and that child's advocate(s), on how to best use the Social Security benefits to provide for the current and future needs of the child;

Provide for the conservation of Social Security funds in dedicated accounts that a child can access when they leave care to pay for things like housing, education, transportation, and other life expenses;

Increase the Social Security resource limit to \$10,000 (currently it is \$2,000), so that children can conserve up to that amount and still maintain their Social Security eligibility;

Require the GAO to report back to Congress on states' progress in screening all foster children for Social Security eligibility.

Improving our child welfare system has repercussions throughout our society. Foster children who age out of the child welfare system without having developed family supports or skills that can lead to employment create a large societal cost. In the next 15 years 300,000 foster children will age out of care without any transition supports. Congress has a moral obligation to provide foster children with the resources they need to become independent adults. The "Foster Children Self Support Act" is a small part of fulfilling this obligation and a large step toward helping one of the most vulnerable groups of foster children.

Attached are two news articles for the RECORD that illustrate the consequences of our current policy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECONSTRUCTION AND STABILIZATION CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, today, Mr. SAXTON and I are pleased to introduce the bill, Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act.

In his State of the Union speech, the President called on Congress to support a civilian response corps which "would function much like our military reserve. It would ease the burden on the Armed Forces by allowing us to hire civilians with critical skills to serve on missions abroad when America needs them. It would give people across America who do not wear the uniform a chance to serve in the defining struggle of our time."

The Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act would authorize a civilian response corps. Why is this authorization necessary? Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. has been engaged in a stabilization or reconstruction operation once every 18–24 months. By default, the services have taken on the task of nation building, and OSD Directive 3000.05 makes stabilization and reconstruction operations a core competency of the military.

While our military personnel have done an excellent job for which they have not been trained, filling the void should be the responsibility of the State Department. In order for our operations to be successful, the State Department must fill this void, and can do so by creating a comparable civilian force to take over once the military has stabilized a war-torn country.

Combating failed states requires a complex combination of political, diplomatic, development assistance and military actions, as well as the ability to respond quickly in the immediate aftermath of crisis. The military plays an extremely important role in stabilizing a country, but civilians play an equally important role and have comparative advantage in helping to develop civil society—judicial systems, law enforcement, health care, economic development, trade promotion and other essential sectors to stabilize a country.

The Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act establishes the legislative framework for authorizing this integral civilian capacity by:

Authorizing the establishment of the State Department Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, S/CRS;

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

Establishes personnel exchange programs with other relevant Federal agencies that can help a failed state develop government and civil society infrastructure.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN QUARLES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jonathan Quarles, the keynote speaker at the Flint NAACP's Freedom Fund annual dinner to be held on March 3rd in Flint Michigan.

Jonathan Quarles is currently serving the mayor of Detroit, the Honorable Kwame Kilpatrick, as the executive assistant. Jonathan began his public service career after graduating from Florida A&M University in 2004 with dual degrees in business administration and political science. He worked for People for the American Way Foundation in partnership with Tavis Smiley to increase civic awareness and engagement in the public process by young people in Florida, Michigan, Illinois, Texas and Ohio.

In addition to his current position with the city of Detroit, Jonathan has a lifelong commitment to the NAACP, is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated Beta Nu Chapter. He serves as a precinct delegate for the city of Detroit, as board member of Leadership Transformation, a steering committee member for New Detroit National Leadership Summit on Race, a trainer for the Paul Wellstone Action Network, and an ambassador for Tavis Smiley's Youth 2 Leaders Foundation. Recently Jonathan founded Common Link Consulting Services to better educate the community about public policy and foster links between the public and private sectors.

Recognized for his accomplishments, Jonathan was selected by Black Enterprise as one of America's emerging leaders. He was recognized by Jet Magazine as one of Black America's most promising leaders of the 21st century. The Governor of Michigan named him a "Michiganian of the Year" in 2000 and Florida A&M University has granted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award to Jonathan for two consecutive years. The February 2007 issue of Ebony Magazine listed him as one of the country's top 30 leaders under the age of 30.

Madam Speaker I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a fellow Flint native, Jonathan Quarles, as he is honored by the Flint Chapter of the NAACP for his work to make our community a better place.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEVEN G. SCHORR

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Steven G. Schorr, Vice President of Public and Government Affairs for

Cox Communications, whose civic and professional contributions to Southern Nevada have motivated the Clark County School Board of Trustees to name a new elementary school in his honor. Steven has been a vital part of our community since he and wife, Holly, moved to Las Vegas with their two sons, David and Darrin, in 1977.

Mr. Schorr's remarkable civic involvement has earned him much deserved recognition. He has been named Public Citizen of the Year in Nevada and was cited as "One of the Most Influential Men in Southern Nevada." Mr. Schorr has also received the Glenn Smith Humanitarian Award from Opportunity Village and was named to the "National Erase the Hate" honor roll. He was presented the Nevada Points of Light A ward by former Governor Kenny Guinn and the Nevada Commission for National and Community Service for his dedication and commitment to serve our community. In acknowledgement of his contributions to the community, Mr. Schorr was recently inducted as an honorary board member and executive board member of the 100 Black Men of Southern Nevada, which is an organization geared towards mentoring children. Mr. Schorr serves on several boards such as the National Urban League, Nevada Ballet Theater, and Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center.

As Vice President of Public and Government Affairs for Cox Communications for the past 19 years, Mr. Schorr is the liaison to local, state and national elected officials and government bodies. Prior to his work with Cox Communications, Mr. Schorr was a television news journalist, during which time he received wide recognition for his outstanding work. For his efforts as a news anchor, Mr. Schorr was awarded two Emmys, two National Freedom Foundation Awards, a Headliner Award, and an Armstrong Award for Broadcasting. In addition to these awards, Mr. Schorr's achievements in television journalism were recognized when he was inducted into the Nevada Broadcasters Association's Hall of Fame. Mr. Schorr has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Greenspun School of Communications.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Mr. Schorr and his many achievements and congratulate him on being recognized with the dedication of a school in his name. His dedication to the community is remarkable and I wish Mr. Schorr continued success in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SIMON
WIESENTHAL HOLOCAUST EDU-
CATION ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act. Through grants to qualifying education organizations, I hope to promote awareness of the Holocaust and the devastating effects of hate crimes. As the generations who survived the Holocaust pass away, we need to make sure that new generations know the horrors of that terrible time. We need to make sure that those who would deny the existence of the

Holocaust do not have the ability to rewrite history.

This bill, named after the honored Holocaust survivor who spent his life's work devoted to seeking justice for the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis, seeks to provide competitive grants for educational organizations working to teach today's youth the lessons of the Holocaust. Through grants from the Department of Education, Holocaust organization programs that are designed to specifically improve the awareness of the Holocaust through such means as classes, seminars, conferences, educational materials, and teacher training, can apply for federal funds to assist in carrying out these initiatives.

Several states now require that the Holocaust be taught in public school curriculums. Though there are resources such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington, DC, and similar museums in a few other cities, many teachers are still left with the challenge of teaching a complicated subject without the expertise. Many Holocaust educational organizations have risen to meet this demand, but their resources are limited, hindering their outreach. This bill will provide more resources to these organizations, who have the expertise and knowledge of the tragic events during the Nazi era, to teach more students, teachers and communities the dangers of inter-group conflict and the importance of tolerance in our society.

HONORING MICHAEL B. SCHAD
FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE UNITED STATES

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise before you to honor Michael B. Schad, of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, for his many years of dedicated service to the U.S. Army National Guard. For Mr. Schad, this marks the end of a 35 year career with the National Guard during which his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty exemplified the true spirit of our armed forces.

Mr. Schad first served four years with the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Upon returning home, Mr. Schad joined the National Guard and worked tirelessly, many times volunteering for extra duty. When there was a call for help to guard a nuclear facility in New Jersey, Mr. Schad stepped up. When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, Mr. Schad joined the relief effort without hesitation. Mr. Schad filled in at supply commands at Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base and in Germany. Yet through all of this, Mr. Schad maintained a full-time job and raised a family, a tremendous feat given his level of commitment to the National Guard.

Madam Speaker, the eagerness with which Mr. Schad served his country is the very trait that serves as the backbone of the National Guard. His willingness to stand at his country's guard, while at the same time undertaking the rest of life's responsibilities, deserves special appreciation and respect. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Schad for what at many times may have

seemed like a thankless task. Mr. Schad was not seeking praise or reward, but only the unique feeling of satisfaction that comes with serving your country and making it safer for others.

Mr. Schad has passed these principles on to his son, U.S. Army Sgt. Brian Schad, who will soon be deployed to Afghanistan after serving in Djibouti, Africa. We all owe a debt of gratitude to families such as the Schads, who have taken up their country's call. Madam Speaker, I am proud to express the gratitude and affection of myself and my constituents to Mr. Schad and his entire family.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO STATE
SENATOR JOHN EVANS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Colorado State Senator John Evans.

A fifth generation Coloradoan, Mr. Evans's contributions to the State of Colorado are innumerable.

After graduating from Lakewood High School, Mr. Evans earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Denver. He later completed his Masters of Education and Ph. D. at Georgia State University, in Atlanta. In 1986, Mr. Evans graduated from Valparaiso University School of Law.

For over twenty-three years Mr. Evans devoted his talents to serving in both the public and higher education arenas. Drawing on this experience, he served as an at-large member of the State Board of Education for four years. During his tenure Mr. Evans was a leader in making Colorado a national leader in school reform.

Mr. Evans continued his work as a champion of Colorado school children in the state Senate. In addition to his work on education issues, he also served as Assistant Majority Leader, Chair of the Legal Services Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Evans's service to the people—especially the students—of Colorado will not soon be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John Evans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROSSI
RALENKOTTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my friend Rossi Ralenkotter for his commitment and dedication to the Las Vegas community.

Rossi Ralenkotter has been a resident of Las Vegas for over 54 years. During this time, Rossi earned his bachelor of science in marketing from Arizona State University and his master of business administration from University of Nevada Las Vegas. He has worked with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors

Authority for 33 years, and is currently serving as the President and CEO. Rossi has previously served as the Authority's executive vice president and senior vice president of marketing. He is also an active member of a number of professional associations, such as, the International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, the American Society of Association Executive and the Hotel Sales Marketing Association.

During his long and distinguished career, Rossi has received numerous accolades; most recently the Las Vegas Ad Club inducted him into the Las Vegas Advertising Hall of Fame for his lifetime marketing achievements. Rossi has also been honored by the American Marketing Association and the Travel and Tourism Research Association with Lifetime Achievement awards, and in 2004 he was selected by Brandweek Magazine as the Grand Marketer of the year. On Sunday, February 25, 2007, Rossi is being honored as the "Man of the Year" at the 79th Annual Academy Awards Oscar Night America and Arthritis Foundation Ceremony.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Rossi Ralenkotter for his considerable contributions to the success and expansion of the Las Vegas community. I commend his professional and personal commitment to southern Nevada. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH OFFICE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Women's Health Office Act with my Republican colleague, DEBORAH PRYCE from Ohio. This Act establishes permanent authorization for the offices or officers of women's health in five federal agencies: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration.

Women's health research has been historically underfunded in the United States and for years women have been banned from clinical trials. For example, in 1977, the FDA barred all women of child bearing potential from participating in most early phase clinical research, and this continued for 16 years. Unfortunately, sex differences continue to be ignored in medical research today and we have not made up for the dearth of information on women's health.

The offices of women's health in these federal agencies were intended to provide a much needed focus on women's health including research, service delivery, policy, education, and outreach. However, these offices are currently unable to perform their responsibilities due to a lack of support from our federal government. They are severely underfunded and understaffed, and vulnerable to elimination in the future.

The work of these offices is essential to improving the health of women in the United States. Creating a permanent authorization

would ensure that these offices retain their allocated funding, are sufficiently staffed, and can accomplish the important work for which they were established.

HONORING ZACH COHEN FOR HIS WORK WITH OPERATION DVD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Zach Cohen, an extraordinary young man from Lower Makefield, Pennsylvania. Through his involvement with Operation DVD, Zach has shown exceptional selflessness and caring, well beyond his years.

The Charles Boehm Middle School seventh grader wrote me recently to promote the project, excited to help our community show support for troops overseas. Operation DVD was started by AMVETS, a national veteran's organization. Those running the project collect new or used DVDs and CDs, which are sent abroad to our service men and women. The goal of Operation DVD is to send over one million discs to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, where outdoor recreational activity comes at great risk. By providing soldiers with music and movies, they can enjoy what little free time they might have in safety.

Zach became involved with the project when he was researching a community service project to complete in preparation for his Bar Mitzvah. He felt his love for movies and music would be shared by our men and women fighting overseas. But most important, Zach's attitude showed appreciation and maturity that hopefully rubs off on others his age. Zach wrote in his letter, "I also think it's very important to support our troops and thank them for all that they do for our country. And I thought it was great that I had found a way to do a lot of good without having to ask people for money." Madam Speaker, we should all share this genuine thoughtfulness and consideration, especially for men and women who have sacrificed so much. And as someone who served in Baghdad only three years ago, I can attest to the affect these acts of generosity have on morale.

From the moment Zach discovered Operation DVD, he showed tremendous determination in spreading the word. He attended a Lower Makefield Township Supervisors meeting. He was featured in articles by the Yardley News and the Trend Midweek. He has sent letters to Bucks County school districts and various other community organizations. Madam Speaker, Zach's tireless efforts represent the potential of our youth for contributing to our communities through selfless and noble acts.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD GERMANN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arnold Germann on the occa-

sion of his retirement from the Farm Service Agency after 35 years of service. Since December of 1971, when he began as a County Office Manager trainee, he has dedicated his professional life to the Farm Service Agency. He became very effective in his first position as the Office Manager in El Paso County. After serving in El Paso County for a short time, he decided to give up his position and go to Weld County to manage the county office with the largest workload in the State.

Arnold has seen the office through numerous changes. When he started, farm programs in Weld County were limited to dryland farms. Through the years, the situation has changed dramatically and now nearly every farm in Weld County is enrolled in some sort of farm program.

Over the years, Mr. Germann has served on many State and National Committees to help develop ways to administer Farm Programs more efficiently. His impressive efforts earned him numerous leadership positions including President of the Colorado Association of County Office Employees from 1979 through 1982 and the Legislative Committee chair from 1987 to 1991. His outstanding work has been acknowledged with numerous awards including the 1976 Pro Employee award and the 1983 Service to Colorado Association of County Office Employees distinguished service award.

Mr. Germann has served the Farm Service Agency and the agricultural producers of Weld County with great dedication over these many years. I extend my heartfelt thanks to him for a lifetime of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. LINDA NOWLIN, KITTY STONE ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Linda Nowlin of Jacksonville, Alabama. Mrs. Nowlin is a highly accomplished educator and was recently named Kitty Stone Elementary School's Teacher of the Year.

According to recent media reports, for the past 34 years Mrs. Nowlin has been inspiring young students in Alabama and Tennessee and has been a member of the Kitty Stone Elementary faculty since 1998. Over the years, Mrs. Nowlin has integrated advanced teaching methods and the Internet to equip her kindergarten students with the skills they need to be successful.

I congratulate Mrs. Nowlin for her years of service, and for her recent commendation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REBECCA A. JOHNSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rebecca A. Johnson, principal of Kirk

Adams Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada and recent recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards program recognizes and rewards outstanding teachers, principals, and education professionals who go above and beyond to achieve excellence in education. Since the first award was presented in 1987, over 2,200 recipients have this prestigious award. Ms. Johnson was one of the 100 educators chosen for 2006–2007 school year and the 78th Nevada educator to win.

Ms. Johnson's long career as an outstanding educator and an effective administrator has earned her this much deserved national recognition. For the past 17 years, Ms. Johnson has served the Clark County community where her insight, guidance, and leadership have propelled academic improvement in students of all levels and abilities.

As principal of Kirk Adams Elementary School, Ms. Johnson has implemented several programs that have not only inspired student successes but have also enhanced the professional lives of the teachers on her staff. Adams Elementary is one of only four schools in the Clark County School District to be designated as an empowerment school. This distinction allows the administrators of Adams Elementary to have more control over the school's budget and curriculum.

Most notably, under Ms. Johnson's leadership, the school has seen teacher turnover rate reduce to less than 10 percent. Finally, through the establishment of a Professional Learning Community, Ms. Johnson has created an environment in which teachers, parents, students, and the community work together to facilitate student success.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Johnson and her achievements. I wish Ms. Johnson continued success in her career in primary education.

INTRODUCTION OF SEPTEMBER 11TH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PATRIOTISM ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the September 11th Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act with Representatives PETER KING, RANGEL, NADLER, SERRANO, ISRAEL, ENGEL, BERMAN, SCHAKOWSKY, and HARE.

We are introducing this legislation because the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, left many surviving spouses and children of legal employment-based visa holders and undocumented workers in jeopardy of being deported, because their immigration status was linked to a family member who was employed at the World Trade Center.

The USA PATRIOT Act initially gave some immigrants amnesty until September 10, 2002. Others, who were not protected by the amnesty provided by the PATRIOT Act, because they were undocumented, also face deportation. The administration has acted with care by not moving forward with deportation procedures for many of them, but their status nonetheless remains in limbo. This legislation

would provide permanent relief for the non-citizen dependents of deceased victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, as determined by the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. These individuals should not be forced to leave the country because of the actions of the terrorists.

Finally, I would like to thank Moshe and Debra Steinberg for their assistance in preparing this legislation for introduction and for all of the work they have done on behalf of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and urge its swift passage into law.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HOYA BASKETBALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to call to my colleagues' attention this year's 100th anniversary of Hoya Basketball at Georgetown University here in the Nation's Capital. Over the last century, the Georgetown Hoyas have had great success on the basketball court, but I am proud to say there is much more to the Hoyas than their athletic prowess. The teams have had a strong record of academic success, community service and developing leaders that have served the Nation with distinction.

First, to their success on the basketball court: The Hoyas were the NCAA National Champions in 1984 and have made it to the Sweet Sixteen or beyond in nine NCAA tournaments since 1980. They have played in National Championship games in 1943, 1982, 1984 and 1985. Since the founding of the Big East Conference in 1980, the Hoyas have been six time Big East Champions. Having played in ten National Invitational Tournaments, in three years, the Georgetown team made it to the NIT Final Four. Former Georgetown head basketball coach John Thompson, Jr., was named Coach of the Year seven times during his career at Georgetown. In 1988, Coach John Thompson, Jr. coached the U.S. Men's Olympic Basketball team, and six of the last eight U.S. Men's Olympic teams have included Georgetown Hoya players or coaching. After completing their careers at Georgetown, many of their players have gone on to success in the NBA including Alonzo Mourning, Dikembe Mutombo, Allen Iverson and Patrick Ewing, to name just a few.

Georgetown athletics have also been committed to ensuring the academic success of their players. In fact, during the years when Coach John Thompson, Jr. led the team to win after win on the basketball court, he also focused on ensuring that his players succeeded in the classroom. Of 78 players who stayed at the University for four years during the years that John Thompson, Jr., led the team, 76 received their degrees for a 97% graduation rate. Since being under the coaching of Craig Esherick and John Thompson, III, the Hoyas have maintained that same commitment to ensuring the academic success of their players on the court.

In addition to the Georgetown Hoyas who have gone on to professional basketball careers of significant renown, two former

Georgetown team members are names all of us in the Congress will recognize. First, our former colleague who just retired earlier this year after a long career in this chamber, the Honorable Henry Hyde of Illinois, played on the first Georgetown Hoyas team to play in a National Championship game in 1943. Here in the House, Congressman Hyde served with distinction both as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and of the House International Relations Committee. The other familiar name, Paul Tagliabue, served as Commissioner of the National Football League from 1989 through September, 2006. Mr. Tagliabue graduated from Georgetown in 1962 and subsequently earned a law degree from New York University School of Law. His record of rebounds remains in the top 20 through Georgetown Hoya history.

It is also heartening to know that this team has a long record of community service here in the District of Columbia as well as nationally and internationally. Since 1980 when the Hoyas began playing in arenas off campus with adequate space, it has been Georgetown basketball policy to donate at least 1,000 tickets per game to community groups here in the City. At present, some 80 organizations benefit from those donations in a typical season. Recognizing the importance of developing interactions between young people and law enforcement, the Hoyas partner with the DC Police Department and Coca-Cola each year to sponsor the "Kids 'n Cops" program when about 1,500 young people from the District attend a Hoyas basketball game with members of the District police force. Also, as part of a broader Georgetown athletics mentoring program known as "GAME," basketball team members tutor students at the SEED School here in the District.

The experience of engaging in community service has carried forward as Hoyas graduate and go on to their own careers. I will share just a few of many examples of this important legacy of Georgetown basketball. Alonzo Mourning who graduated in 1992, is deeply involved in community programs in South Florida where he now lives with a focus on development and education programs for at-risk children and their families. He has also supported kidney research and programming for foster children. Since leaving Georgetown in 1998, Allen Iverson has established the Cross-over Foundation which is actively involved in mentoring young people, assisting with access to technology and providing scholarships. As we heard in this chamber last week during the President's State of the Union address, Dikembe Mutombo, who graduated from Georgetown in 1991, has funded a 300 bed teaching hospital in his home of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 1996, he also funded the expenses of the Zairian women's Olympic basketball team. In addition, he has been engaged in the NBA's Basketball Without Borders program in Africa and elsewhere.

In closing, I would also note that, as part of the important effort to promote public diplomacy, three former Georgetown Hoyas, Courtland Freeman, Omari Faulkner, and RaMell Ross, have in recent years participated in the State Department's cultural envoys program. That work has taken them to South Africa and Botswana where they have focused on efforts to promote behaviors to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS and to El Salvador and

Brazil where they have concentrated in part on anti-gang messages.

Indeed, as the Congresswoman representing Georgetown University and as a tenured member of the University's Law Center faculty, I am proud to represent and to be associated with the accomplishments of the Georgetown Hoyas over the last century. I look forward to continuing successes under the leadership of their current coach, John Thompson III.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS EQUITY ACT," H.R. 1073

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my colleague JOHN MCHUGH, to introduce The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act (H.R. 1073). The purpose of this bill is simply to give law enforcement status to all Federal law enforcement officers!

Many Federal officials—for example, the Border Patrol—are classified as "law enforcement officers," for the purposes of determining salary and retirement benefits. But many other officers—such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Inspectors, Veterans' Affairs Police Officers, U.S. Mint Police Officers, Internal Revenue Officers, and police officers in about two dozen other agencies—do not have equal pay and benefits status.

The tragic irony, Mr. Speaker, is that the only time these officers are classified as law enforcement officers is when they are killed in the line of duty. Then their names are inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial right here in Washington.

Let me say that again. It is only when they are killed that they are called law enforcement officers, and that is a tragic irony.

My district encompasses the entire California-Mexico border and is home to two of the busiest border crossings in the entire world, so I am very familiar with the work of our Nation's border inspectors. They wear bulletproof vests, they carry firearms, and, unfortunately, have to use them. Most importantly, these inspectors are subject to the same risks as other officers with whom they serve side-by-side. However, they are not eligible for early retirement and other benefits, which are designed to maintain a young and vigorous law enforcement workforce that we need to combat those who pose life-threatening risks to our society.

The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act will provide well-deserved pay and retirement benefits to the officers protecting our borders, our ports of entry, our military and veterans' installations and other sensitive government buildings. The costs of these benefits would likely be off-set by savings in training costs and increased revenue collection. The bill will also reduce turnover, increase yield, decrease recruitment and development costs and enhance the retention of a well-trained and experienced workforce.

Madam Speaker, the simple fact is that these officers have dangerous jobs and de-

serve to be recognized as law enforcement officers, just like others with whom they serve, side by side, and who share the same level of risk. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Mr. MCHUGH in cosponsoring, the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act. The valiant officers who protect us deserve no less!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
CAPTAIN DONNIE R. BELSER, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I request the House's attention today to recognize a heroic American, Captain Donnie R. Belser, Jr., 28, of Anniston, Alabama, who died in Iraq on February 10, 2007. Captain Belser was assigned to the 425th Military Transition Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, and according to initial reports was killed during an exchange of small arms fire.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and the gratitude our country feels for his service. Captain Belser died serving the United States and the entire cause of liberty, on a mission to bring stability to a troubled region and liberty to a formerly oppressed people. Captain Belser was a true patriot indeed.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY KAY
BARTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Larry Kay Barton who passed away January 30, 2007.

Larry Kay Barton was instrumental to the development of the Las Vegas community. Having served as the deputy city manager of Las Vegas in 1985 and in 1993 and as the city manager between 1993 and 1997, he helped facilitate the exponential growth of the region. Larry was involved in many projects that revitalized the historic districts during his time as city manager such as the Lewis and Fifth Streets Corridors and he played a major part in making the Freemont Street Experience come together. Other significant achievements he made during his time as city manager of Las Vegas were leading negotiations and facilitating the land assemblages for the Lloyd George U.S. Courthouse and the Regional Justice Center as well as the Las Vegas Technology Park and Enterprise Park developments. One of his biggest focuses was to make the city more efficient, so he created the Development Services Center and Express Plans check process for building projects in order to streamline permit approvals. I had the great pleasure of working with Larry in my capacity as Boulder city councilman, Boulder city mayor and later during my tenure in the Nevada State Senate.

In addition to Larry's long time commitment to serving the Las Vegas community, he also served as an Airman in the United States Air Force for over 30 years. He started as a fighter pilot in 1956 and subsequently became a command pilot and logged over 3,500 flying hours and flew more than 200 combat missions. Later, Larry served as a director of operations, a wing commander of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing and ultimately become vice commander.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Larry Kay Barton. As the city manager of Las Vegas, he led with integrity and greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. Larry was a true patriot, having devoted his life to his community and country. His dedication to service should serve as an example to us all.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, greetings to Senator CLINTON, Dorothy Height, Dr. E. Faye Williams, Eleanor Smeal and Cicely Tyson.

In this country's majestic Capitol rotunda sits a monument honoring three pioneers of the women's suffrage movement, which led to the women of our great Nation being granted the right to vote in 1920. The monument features the busts of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. As the Architect of the Capitol has noted, the monument was presented to the Capitol as a gift from the Women of the United States by the National Women's Party and was accepted on behalf of Congress by the Joint Committee on the Library on February 10, 1921. The unveiling ceremony was held in the rotunda on February 15, 1921, the 101st anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, and was attended by representatives of over 70 women's organizations. The committee authorized the installation of the monument in the crypt, where it remained until, by act of Congress in 1996, it was relocated to the Capitol rotunda in May 1997.

In addition to the wonderful busts of Stanton, Mott, and Anthony, one of the interesting features of the monument is the existence of a large slab of stone that was never sculpted. Looking at the monument, it is clear that it was intended for a fourth person—another pioneer of the women's suffrage movement—to be sculpted. The legislation that myself and Senator CLINTON along with Senator SPECTER crafted calls for Sojourner Truth to be that person.

Born into slavery as one of the youngest of 13 children of James and Elizabeth in Hurley, which is in Ulster County, New York, in approximately 1797, Sojourner Truth's given name was Isabella Baumfree. Almost all of her brothers and sisters had been sold to other slave owners. Some of her earliest memories were of her parents' stories of the cruel loss of their other children.

Isabella was sold several times to various slave owners and suffered many hardships under slavery, but throughout her life she maintained a deep and unwavering faith that carried her through many difficult times.

In 1817, the New York State Legislature passed the New York State Emancipation Act, which granted freedom to those enslaved who were born before July 4, 1799. Unfortunately, however, this law declared that many men, women, and children could not be freed until July 4, 1827, 10 years later. While still enslaved and at the demand of her then owner, John Dumont, Isabella married an older slave named Thomas, with whom she had at least five children—Diane, Peter, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Sophia.

As the date of her release came near—July 4, 1827—she learned that Dumont was plotting to keep her enslaved, even after the Emancipation Act went into effect. For this reason, in 1826, she ran away from the Dumont plantation with her infant child, leaving behind her husband and other children.

She took refuge with a Quaker family—the family of Isaac Van Wagenen—and performed domestic work for them as well as missionary work among the poor of New York City. While working for the Van Wagenens, she discovered that a member of the Dumont family had sold her youngest son Peter to a plantation owner in Alabama. At the time, New York law prohibited the sale of slaves outside New York State and so the sale of Peter was illegal. Isabella sued in court and won his return. In doing so, she became the first black woman in the United States to take a white man to court and win.

Isabella had always been very spiritual, and soon after being emancipated, she had a vision that affected her profoundly, leading her—as she later described it—to develop a “perfect trust in God and prayer.” In 1843, deciding her mission was to preach the word of God, Isabella changed her name to Sojourner Truth—her name for a traveling preacher, one who speaks the truth—and left New York. That summer she traveled throughout New England, calling her own prayer meetings and attending those of others. She preached “God’s truth and plan for salvation.”

After months of travel, she arrived in Northampton, Massachusetts, and joined the Northampton Association for Education and Industry, where she met and worked with abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglas, and Olive Gilbert.

As we know, during the 1850s, slavery became an especially heated issue in the United States. In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, which allowed runaway slaves to be arrested and jailed without a jury trial, and in 1857, the Supreme Court ruled in the Dred Scott case that those enslaved had no rights as citizens and that the government could not outlaw slavery in the new territories.

Nevertheless, these extraordinarily difficult times did not stop Sojourner Truth from continuing her mission. Her life story—“The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave”—written with the help of friend Olive Gilbert, was published in 1850.

While traveling and speaking in States across the country, Sojourner Truth met many women abolitionists and noticed that although women could be part of the leadership in the abolitionist movement, they could neither vote nor hold public office. It was this realization that led Sojourner to become an outspoken supporter of women’s rights.

In 1851, she addressed the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, delivering her famous speech “Ain’t I a Woman?” The ap-

plause she received that day has been described as “deafening.” From that time on, she became known as a leading advocate for the rights of women. Indeed, she was one of the nineteenth century’s most eloquent voices for the cause of anti-slavery and women’s rights.

By the mid-1850s, Truth had earned enough money from sales of her popular autobiography to buy land and a house in Battle Creek, Michigan. She continued her lectures, traveling to Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. When the Civil War erupted in 1861, she visited black troops stationed near Detroit, Michigan, and offered encouragement. After the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, she worked in Washington as a counselor and educator for those who had been previously enslaved through the Freedman’s Relief Association and the Freedmen’s Hospital. It was during this time—in October 1864—that she met with President Abraham Lincoln.

Throughout the 1870s, Sojourner Truth continued to speak on behalf of women and African Americans. Failing health, however, soon forced Sojourner to return to her Battle Creek, Michigan, home, where she died on November 26, 1883.

Friends, this brief recounting of Sojourner Truth’s life story only begins to speak of her faith, courage, intelligence, and steadfastness in the face of extraordinary circumstances and volatile times in our Nation’s history. Though she could neither read nor write, her eloquence commanded the attention of thousands of Americans, both black and white. It therefore comes as no surprise to learn that among her many friends, admirers and staunch supporters were Frederick Douglass, Amy Post, Olive Gilbert, Parker Pillsbury, Mrs. Francis Gage, Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Laura Haviland, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony.

The legislation we introduced pays tribute to Sojourner Truth.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
MR. CHARLES LANGFORD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the House’s attention this morning to reflect on the life and legacy of a great Alabamian, Mr. Charles Langford. Mr. Langford passed this week on February 11 at his home in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. Langford was an activist, lawyer, and statesman of the highest caliber. During the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955–56, Mr. Langford represented the woman who started that protest which helped change our Nation, the late Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks, as well as the organization formed to carry out the boycott, the Montgomery Improvement Association. In 1956, the class action suit filed by Mr. Langford and his partner, Fred Gray, known as *Browder v. Gayle*, ended segregated seating on buses in Montgomery, and also became the precedent used to end all racial segregation ordinances in the United States. Later in life, Langford served two terms in the Alabama House of Representatives and five terms in the Alabama Senate.

Mr. Langford’s passing is a great loss to the State of Alabama. He helped make history in the Civil Rights movement, and played an important role in Alabama politics. I know all of us in the House today share in the loss of this great and loved man, and send our condolences to his family and our prayers that his legacy will live on long after this mournful time has passed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDY
PELTYN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Sandy Peltyn, for her work and involvement in the Las Vegas community.

Since Sandy’s move to Las Vegas in 1981, she has become very active in both fund-raising and organizing major events in the community. She is very involved in a number of organizations including: the Jewish Asthma Hospital, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Kids for Homeless Kids, Nevada Dance Theater Guild, Women’s Center at UNLV, Latin Chamber of Commerce Miss Nevada-USA Pageant, Mrs. United States Pageant for the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation, Golden Rainbow, Nevada Opera Theater, Opera Las Vegas, Oasis, Veterans in Politics, UNLV School of Medicine, Dean’s Council, Clark County Pro Bono Projects, The Arthritis Foundation, Community College of Southern Nevada Fund Raising Committee, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, The UNLV Sierra Wind Quintet, Safe House, American Heart Association, Kidney Foundation, Nevada Association of the Handicapped and Children’s Charities.org. She has raised over four million dollars for these charities.

Sandy has also been recognized for her achievements with the International Friendship Awards by the Nevada Opera Theatre, the Volunteer of the Year Awards from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the Politician of the Year Award by the Filipino Community of Nevada and the Woman of the Year by Fit for Tomorrow. In addition to all of her other community achievements, she was recently appointed as one of the five members of Medical Liability Association of Nevada and President George W. Bush appointed her to a member of the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts at the Kennedy Center.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Sandy Peltyn for her community activism which has enriched the lives of many in the community. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE
PLUS ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues about legislation I have introduced today to preserve Social Security and pay full promised benefits to future

retirees without raising payroll taxes or further depleting the trust funds.

The facts are undeniable: demographics are driving Social Security's looming insolvency. Modern medicine is helping people live longer, and families are having fewer children. As a result, the number of seniors is growing faster than the number of workers supporting Social Security.

According to the 2006 report of the Social Security Board of Trustees, the number of retirees receiving Social Security benefits will grow five times faster than the working population over the next 10 years. Social Security tax revenue will fall short of benefit costs beginning in 2017. By 2040, Social Security revenues will be sufficient enough to finance only 74 percent of promised benefits. At that time, according to trustee estimates, benefits will have to be cut 25 percent, or the payroll tax will have to be increased by 34 percent to pay full promised benefits.

We must refocus our concern and reinvigorate our efforts to address the serious challenges Social Security programs face. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue, it's an American issue. The choices without reform are stark: massive benefit cuts, enormous deficits, or huge tax increases. We should not leave these problems for our children and grandchildren to solve.

The legislation that I have proposed, the "Social Security Guarantee Plus Act," initially proposed by former Congressman Clay Shaw and former Chairman Bill Archer in previous Congresses, would keep the Social Security safety net intact, ensuring full receipt of Social Security benefits for all current and future American workers.

The Guarantee Plus plan establishes a voluntary program that would allow workers to receive a refundable income tax credit equal to 4 percent of their annual earnings, up to \$1,000, to invest in a tax-free retirement account. Instead of restructuring existing payroll taxes, general treasury revenues would be used to fund retirement accounts. Individual workers, not the government, would control how their account assets are invested to create growth. Real assets, not IOU's, would fund promised benefits.

At retirement or when otherwise eligible, a 5 percent tax free lump sum payment would be paid directly to the worker. The balance would be used to help pay full guaranteed Social Security benefits. In order to preserve funds for retirement, account withdrawals would be prohibited until a worker becomes eligible for traditional Social Security benefits. Accounts would be inheritable and tax-free if a worker dies before reaching retirement.

The Guarantee Plus plan incorporates three core principles: all workers are treated fairly; individuals own and control their own retirement funds; Social Security benefits are guaranteed in full to all Americans through the next 75 years and beyond without increasing taxes, lowering benefits or raising the retirement age.

Because Social Security benefits are based on earnings, women are disadvantaged when they choose to stay home to raise their children. Longer life expectancies also make woman more likely to struggle with poverty in old age. The Guarantee Plus plan addresses this iniquity by enhancing benefits for widows, divorced spouses, and working mothers. These benefits would become immediately available.

The plan would also eliminate the retirement earnings penalty for all workers age 62 and older and reduce the current Government Pension Offset that limits spouse and survivor benefits for certain government employees.

The Social Security Administration's Office of the Actuary estimates that every borrowed dollar necessary to begin the program, in addition to accrued interest, would be repaid with 75 years, achieving permanent solvency. In sum, we would payoff the mortgage on Social Security while leaving workers with substantial account balances and generating surplus revenues for the Federal Government.

Everyone agrees that the Social Security program is integral to the financial stability of millions of Americans who have left the workforce due to retirement or disability as well as those who are dependent upon survivor benefits following the death of a parent or spouse. We must put partisan politics aside and do what is best for today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees.

Our recent success at passing sweeping measures to modernize welfare and worker pensions shows that effective reform is possible. In similar spirit, Congress needs to work together to explore every possible option to restore confidence in Social Security and ensure program solvency for generations to come.

I believe the Social Security Guarantee Plus plan accomplishes this goal in the most comprehensive, fair, and cost-effective manner. I encourage my colleagues to consider their support for this bill as a step toward permanent preservation of the Social Security program.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION GIVING TAX RELIEF FOR THE NATION'S MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the resolution debated this week in the House says, "Congress and the American people will continue to support and protect the members of the United States Armed Forces." Today, I am introducing legislation, the Armed Forces Tax Relief Act of 2007, and the Strengthening America's Military Families Act of 2007 that will do precisely that. Both bills would put more money into the pockets of our troops fighting in a combat zone.

Members of the Armed Forces currently serving in a combat zone are exempt from having their earnings taxed under the federal income tax. However, their pay is still subject to "employment taxes," such as the significant payroll taxes for Medicare and Social Security. The Armed Forces Tax Relief Act changes this, and truly allows our fighting men and women to keep their earnings tax free. Compared to the sacrifice that our troops make in the field, the amount we compensate them is not nearly enough. And while their sense of duty to their country is not tied to the size of their paychecks, enacting this legislation would put real extra money into the pockets of our Armed Forces, and send them a message that we are working hard in Washington to support them.

Oftentimes we forget that when the military is called overseas to fight in combat, many

leave behind a well-paying job, a family, and children. The second bill I have introduced, the Strengthening America's Military Families Act of 2007, seeks to strengthen those families at home while their spouses are fighting abroad. With this legislation, the federal income tax exemption that we currently offer to members of the Armed Forces fighting in designated combat zones would be extended to their spouses. This way, during the months that our soldiers are fighting, they can have some peace of mind that their absence at home will not be wrought with financial hardship on their families.

REMEMBERING "MR.
BURLINGAME," VICTOR MANGINI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life of my dear friend Victor Mangini, who died of congestive heart failure on February 4, 2007 at the age of 88. "Vic", as he was often called, was an extraordinary human being, and a regarded educator, coach and public servant. His commitment to his adopted city of Burlingame, California rightfully earned him the title "Mr. Burlingame."

Born in Manhattan, Victor earned his Bachelor's Degree from Manhattan College and his teaching credential from Columbia University. As a young man, Victor joined the Armed Services and was stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco, where he played a key role as a training officer. Victor's commitment to our Nation's military continued after the War, as he joined the Air Force Reserve, retiring at the rank of Colonel after 37 years of service.

Madam Speaker, much like both of us, Victor Mangini fell deeply in love with the Bay Area of California and sought to make it his permanent home. The wonderful community of Burlingame located in the beautiful 12th Congressional District of California, which I am immensely proud to represent, is where Victor wisely chose to live and raise his family.

After the end of World War II, Victor Mangini moved down the Peninsula and started what became an illustrious 44-year career at Burlingame High School. During his tenure at Burlingame High School, Vic's involvement in the education and well-being of young scholars and athletes occurred in the classroom as history teacher and later as the assistant principal, and also on the athletic field, where he coached both the football and track teams. Because of outstanding and extraordinary dedication to the school, in May 2001 the Burlingame City Council voted to name the street in front of Burlingame High School after him. The high school address now reads 1 Mangini Way. That same year, Vic was also honored by his induction into the San Mateo County Sports Hall of Fame.

Vic's commitment to educating youth went far beyond his high school classroom. For over 55 years he headed the scholarship selection committee for the Frank H. and Eva B. Buck Foundation, which provides full scholarships and support to more than two hundred students seeking higher education in California.

Madam Speaker, Victor Magnini's impressive résumé and limitless talents did not only extend to academic endeavors. He was president of the Burlingame Rotary Club, and as an active member of the Our Lady of Angels Church in Burlingame, California, Victor proved his loyalty to his adopted city and in 1957, during the Golden Anniversary of the City of Burlingame, he rightfully earned the title "Citizen of the Year" from his fellow community members.

Vic was also very active in local politics. He successfully ran for Burlingame City Council in

1970, an office he held till he decided to retire in 1989. Vic served four separate terms as Mayor of the city of Burlingame during his nearly twenty-year tenure on the council.

A devoted family man, Victor was married to Rina Sari for 27 years, before she succumbed to breast cancer in 1975. They raised two children, Mariavittoria (Vicki) and Martin Jerome (Jerry). Victor later married Grace Cecilia Mangini, who passed away in 2003 following another 27 years of happy marriage.

Madam Speaker, there is a reason all city flags in Burlingame, California flew at half-staff

for 4 days following Victor Mangini's death. The whole city of Burlingame mourned the passing of this extraordinary human being, who exemplified the highest class of American citizens, whose commitment to the improvement of society and country is unwavering. Victor Mangini spent his life making his community a better place, and I, along with every single resident of the City of Burlingame, California am deeply indebted to this true American hero.