

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### INTRODUCTORY VETERANS' BENEFITS PROTECTION ACT

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, in times of war and in times of peace we must always show our gratitude for those of us who have worn the uniform of the United States military.

In the closing hours of the 109th Congress, legislation was passed a comprehensive bill, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006. Included in this good bill was a bad provision to make it easier for lawyers to be involved in the Veterans claims process at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I have introduced the Veterans' Benefits Protection Act to correct this mistake. Bringing lawyers whose primary goal is their own financial gain into the system will only complicate the process and lead to inequities in a system that we count on to care for those who have served. A number of Veterans in my District have raised concerns that benefits may be slowed or diminished in value.

It is no secret that there are backlog problems that need to be fixed at the VA. Serious reforms should be considered. However, bringing more lawyers into the system will not be beneficial to a majority of Veterans who are patiently waiting for claims that are owed to them by the government.

A Veteran should be able to focus on paying for medicine and other daily necessities and never need to devote a portion of benefits that are owed to pay for legal fees. Turning to a lawyer for assistance should be an option of last resort for a Veteran with claims. There are numbers of resources: individuals, Veterans organizations, and Congressional offices that offer services to assist Veterans at no cost.

I urge my colleagues to consider supporting The Veterans' Benefits Protection Act, repealing a process that will likely lead to inequities in payments for those who have served.

### RECOGNIZING STAN COTTRELL

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution to recognize efforts taken by a Kentuckian to continue the dialogue between the United States and China.

Later this year Stan Cottrell, a distance runner born in Hart County, Kentucky will be involved in a "Friendship Run" across the Great Wall of China. Mr. Cottrell made his first run through China in 1984. Upon completion he will return to the United States to do a relay

with three men from China across our beautiful country.

Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of this measure recognizing Mr. Cottrell's unique efforts to extend the discourse between the U.S. and China.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDY REICH

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Judy Reich for her efforts on behalf of the community.

For years, Judy has been working to educate and enrich the lives of the people of Southern Nevada. In her capacity as Program Director and Community Affairs Director of KVBC, Channel 3, Las Vegas; Judy has been instrumental in the production of programs such as "Action Seniors," "Youth!" and directed Channel 3's Back to School Fair. Judy also established and coordinated Channel 3's Christmas Angel Tree Program and produced a number of Public Service Announcements.

In addition to her work at Channel 3, Judy has been very active in a number of community outreach, and philanthropic programs. Judy has served on the Marketing Committee and the Board of Directors of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum as well as on the Board of Directors of the After School All Starts Program. In addition, the Kids to Kids program and Desert Pines Middle School have all had the benefit of her leadership.

Among her many passions is her work with a number of public health awareness programs. For several of years, Judy has worked with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, where she has served on the Board of Directors, the Government Relations Committee, and as a volunteer lobbyist. Judy has also advocated for public health and awareness through her work with the American Heart Association.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Judy Reich. Her efforts on behalf of the Southern Nevada community have enriched countless lives and should be applauded. I thank her for her dedication and commitment and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### COMFORT WOMEN

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in shock and disappointment at recent news from Japan, where it was reported that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has denied the historical fact that the Japanese Imperial Army forced as many as 200,000 women into sex slavery

during the Second World War, and publicly stated that Japan will not issue an apology, even if a resolution is passed in the United States House of Representatives.

On February 15, a hearing on this issue was held by the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of this House's Committee on Foreign Affairs. This was truly a historic occasion, because it brought three survivors of the Comfort Women horrors to Washington to tell their very real, very personal stories. Not only did that hearing give us an opportunity to reflect on one of the darker episodes of human history, it provided us with a chance to make history by bringing that darkness and forgotten tragedy to light and justice.

Those three women, now advanced in years—Jan Ruff O'Herne, Yong Soo Lee, and Koon Ja Kim—traveled thousands of miles to bring their stories to us, stories which were for many decades kept only in their hearts for reasons best understood only by those who had to endure what these women—and some 200,000 others throughout Asia—had to endure.

Some might ask: Why, more than 60 years after the end of the Second World War, are we discussing the ordeals of the so-called Comfort Women? Shouldn't this be considered a mere footnote to history? Aren't there more important or more pressing issues at hand in the early years of the 21st century?

Those who ask such questions fail to comprehend the lasting relevance of the experience of these women during the war, and of the continuing, obstinate failure, in the face of overwhelming evidence and international scrutiny, of the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge, apologize and accept unequivocal responsibility for their suffering and torture.

The recent news from Tokyo and Prime Minister Abe's inexplicable denial adds greater resonance to our exploration of this topic. One Japanese Diet Member said, with no apparent irony, that the Comfort Women brothels were no different than a buffet lunchroom. Nariaki Nakayama said bluntly: "Some say it is useful to compare the brothels to college cafeterias run by private companies, who recruit their own staff, procure foodstuffs and set prices."

Madam Speaker, without objection, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article on this issue that appeared in the New York Times on Thursday, March 1, reporting Prime Minister Abe's remarks.

ABE REJECTS JAPAN'S FILES ON WAR SEX

(By Norimitsu Onishi)

TOKYO, March 1.—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe denied Thursday that Japan's military had forced foreign women into sexual slavery during World War II, contradicting the Japanese government's longtime official position.

Mr. Abe's statement was the clearest so far that the government was preparing to reject a 1993 government statement that acknowledged the military's role in setting up brothels and forcing, either directly or indirectly, women into sexual slavery. That declaration also offered an apology to the women, euphemistically called "comfort women."

"There is no evidence to prove there was coercion, nothing to support it," Mr. Abe

• 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.

told reporters. "So, in respect to this declaration, you have to keep in mind that things have changed greatly."

The United States House of Representatives has begun debating a resolution that would call on Tokyo to "apologize for and acknowledge" the military's role in wartime sex slavery.

But at the same time, in keeping with a recent trend to revise Japan's wartime history, a group of conservatives in the governing Liberal Democratic Party is stepping up calls to rescind the 1993 declaration. Mr. Abe, whose approval ratings have been plummeting over a series of scandals and perceived weak leadership, seemed to side with this group. A nationalist who has led efforts to revise wartime history, Mr. Abe softened his tone after becoming prime minister last fall. In fact, he first said he recognized the validity of the declaration, angering his conservative base.

"Some say it is useful to compare the brothels to college cafeterias run by private companies, who recruit their own staff, procure foodstuffs and set prices," Nariaki Nakayama, the leader of 120 lawmakers who want to revise the declaration, said Thursday.

"Where there's demand, business crops up," Mr. Nakayama said, according to The Associated Press. "But to say women were forced by the Japanese military into service is off the mark. This issue must be reconsidered, based on truth, for the sake of Japanese honor."

Historians believe some 200,000 women—Koreans, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipinos, as well as Japanese, Dutch and other European women—served in Japanese military brothels. For decades, Japan denied that its military had been involved, calling the brothels private enterprises and the women prostitutes.

But in 1992, a Japanese historian, Yoshiaki Yoshimi, outraged by government denials, went to the Self-Defense Agency's library and unearthed, after two days of searching, documents revealing military involvement in establishing brothels. One was titled "Regarding the Recruitment of Women for Military Brothels." Faced with this evidence, the government acknowledged its role and issued the declaration.

But the response angered people across the political spectrum. The women and their supporters said that the government was not fully acknowledging its responsibility because the declaration was issued by Yohei Kono, then chief cabinet secretary, and not adopted by Parliament. It is known inside Japan simply as the "Kono Statement."

What is more, supporters accused the government of evading direct responsibility by establishing a private, nongovernment fund to compensate the women. Many former sex slaves have refused to accept compensation from this fund.

But conservatives said the declaration went too far in acknowledging the military's role in recruiting the women. While the documents showed that the military established the facilities, Mr. Yoshimi did not find documentation that the military had forcibly recruited the women. Conservatives have seized on this distinction to attack the declaration.

Supporters of the women say that the Japanese authorities famously burned incriminating documents or kept them hidden.

At the same time, many former sex slaves have stepped forward in recent years with their stories. Three testified in the United States Congress recently, saying that Japanese soldiers had kidnapped them and forced them to have sex with dozens of soldiers a day.

Given this recent news report, Madam Speaker, it becomes even clearer that the ex-

perience of the Comfort Women is not just an episode that belongs on the backburner of history. Instead, it is a vivid reminder that the human rights of women around the world are never fully secure. We know that rape, sexual abuse and sometimes murder of women and girls in war are still committed by armies and paramilitary forces in various countries. One thinks of Darfur, of Bosnia, of East Timor. I am sure that Members of this House and those listening to these proceedings can think of other examples.

Denial of the unimaginable atrocities committed by Imperial Japan's Armed Forces against the Comfort Women during World War II should not be tolerated. Neither are they to be forgotten nor swept under the rug by those who hope the subject will go away simply because the victims are growing old and will soon be gone. The fact that some political leaders in modern Japan hold onto the view that the Comfort Women issue is a "historic fabrication" is, in a word, appalling.

The Japan Times also recently interviewed Yasuji Kaneko, an 87 year old former foot soldier in the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. He stated that he "still remembers the screams of the countless women he raped in China as a foot soldier . . . They cried out, but it didn't matter to us whether the women lived or died . . . We were the Emperor's soldiers. Whether in military brothels or in the villages, we raped without reluctance." His statement was no historical fabrication.

It is our moral imperative to act and act courageously on this issue. I am a strong proponent of encouraging our friend and ally, the Government of Japan, to set the record straight on the Comfort Women tragedy and educate its future generations properly about what occurred. In doing so, Japan will take an important step in our collective aim to eliminate violence against women in war by making it unambiguously unacceptable.

It is unacceptable to view rape as merely endemic to war, or an incidental adjunct to armed conflict. Rape is a unique weapon focused on non-combatants and intended to instill terror in its victims and to demonstrate the power of the perpetrators. It is a truly uncivilized act, and defending Imperial Japan's widespread use of rape during its Asian conquests is beneath modern, democratic Japan's better values and aspirations.

Madam Speaker, on January 31, along with six of our colleagues, I introduced House Resolution 121, which addresses the issue of protecting the human rights of the Comfort Women. The denial by Prime Minister Abe of Japan that Comfort Women were forced into sexual slavery is unacceptable and stands to underscore why passage of H. Res. 121 is important. It is my hope that we will be able to have a full vote by the House of Representatives sooner rather than later.

I would also like to thank the Comfort Women survivors—Jan Ruff O'Herne, Yong-Soo Lee, and Koon-Ja Kim—for journeying so far last month to testify on behalf of their 200,000 sisters who suffered under Imperial Japan. Their courage and the dignity with which they have lived their lives deserve our admiration and utmost respect.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WILLIAM TELL, IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Black History Month and to spotlight the success of William Tell, Chairman and CEO of 1 Source Consulting Inc. a strategic consulting firm, which provides business strategy and IT solutions. Tell recently made history by acquiring a seven-year contract from the Department of Energy. Tell, whose larger clients include Homeland Security Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Justice Department and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of Information Technology, partnered with RS Information Systems Inc to secure the \$1.4 billion government contract, the largest contract awarded to a small business.

Beyond a commitment to excellence in the business world Tell maintains a commitment to the community to enriching the lives of others, particularly African Americans. In September 2006, 1 Source Consulting Inc. partnered with San Diego Charger Shawne Merriman, to donate \$10,000 to the Frederick Douglass High School Football Program. The company has also assisted in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and partnered with Goodwill.

William Tell is a living testament to the ingenuity and acumen of black business leaders everywhere. His accomplishments should be celebrated in the spirit of remembering the rich legacy of African American leaders everywhere.

## TRIBUTE TO UASA OF SONOMA COUNTY

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United Against Sexual Assault—UASA—of Sonoma County on the occasion of its 33rd anniversary. Founded in 1974 as Women Against Rape, the agency consisted of a phone number to call for emotional support. Today that crisis line operates 24 hours a day, and the organization has an official board, paid staff, and volunteers who last year donated over 10,000 hours.

Over the past 33 years, UASA has greatly expanded the services offered to the people of Sonoma County. It provides extensive training on helping victims, including not only women and girls, but also men, children, and the families of victims. Staff and volunteers also accompany victims and their families for police reporting, court appearances, medical exams, or other personal situations.

Prevention programs include outreach to elementary through high school youths, reaching approximately 6,000 young people every year, as well as parents and school personnel. Other efforts include bilingual outreach to Hispanic teens, teen peer education training, anti-

racism curriculum which deals with violence against the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community, and a unique men's program featuring men educating men. All services are offered at no cost.

UASA also plays a key role in the county's pioneering SART—sexual assault response team—which unites law enforcement, mental health, legal, and advocacy programs to support victims and families. This collaborative project makes services easily accessible and minimizes the stress felt by victims. The agency is also working with the District Attorney's office to establish a county-wide Family Justice Center.

Executive Director Gloria Young has provided visionary leadership in shepherding the agency through many of these transitions. In 2004, Gloria received the Outstanding Executive Director Award from the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She has postponed her scheduled retirement this year in order to remain at the helm during a time when some services are threatened by the closing of a major hospital.

Madam Speaker, UASA's long-term mission is to eliminate all forms of sexual assault. I know that with its inspired leadership, dedicated staff, and committed volunteers United Against Sexual Assault of Sonoma County has brought our community a long way towards achieving this goal and will not be satisfied until they have reached it. I salute UASA on their anniversary and look forward to the day when their services are no longer needed.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN JAMES

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend John James, a former Nevada State Climatologist who passed away on Monday, January 15, 2007.

John moved to Nevada in 1969 to help found the Sierra Nevada College at Incline Village. Soon thereafter, in 1971, John began work as a research associate for the Forest Institute for Ocean and Mountain Studies in Carson City. Following his work as a research associate, John taught at the University of Nevada, Reno where he was an associate professor of geography and served as chair of the University's Institutional Athletic Board.

John, whose interest in weather and climate patterns was sparked while serving as a military cartographer in Korea during the Korean war, was the State's climatologist for 23 years. In this capacity, John was able to study, maintain, and document the State's weather records through a network of volunteers. Under Governor Richard Bryan, John was appointed chairman of the Governor's Drought Committee when Nevada suffered during an extended drought period.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my good friend John James. His record of dedicated service to the State of Nevada is admirable. He will be profoundly missed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Student Privacy Protection Act.

The Student Privacy Protection Act is legislation that will restore the privacy rights of children and families that were taken away by a little-known provision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the so-called No Child Left Behind Act.

Under No Child Left Behind, high schools are required to turn over lists of student contact information to the Department of Defense, which adds this information to an extensive database of children. The Department of Defense claims to need the names, addresses, and phone numbers of high school students for recruiting purposes, because it enables recruiters to contact children directly in their homes and at school, which is often done without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

As a former high school teacher and principal, I am concerned that the fundamental right of privacy has been taken away from both parents and children. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis defined privacy as "the right to be left alone." Families are not being left alone, and their personal, private information is being divulged without their knowledge. Any database of personal information is subject to abuse. A government that was established for the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness has no business collecting extensive personal data about Americans.

I have the greatest respect for Americans who choose to enter the military, as well as for those in the Armed Forces who engage in the recruiting process. Those efforts, however, should respect the privacy rights of children and their families.

No Child Left Behind requires schools to give military recruiters the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of students, unless their parents "opt-out" of the list. Schools are only required to provide one notice of the military recruiting list, so it can be easily overlooked by parents, or perhaps never received. Moreover, language and cultural barriers can prevent understanding of the opt-out process, especially in immigrant communities that are subject to aggressive military recruiting. If parents do not respond, and do not explicitly object to having their child's personal information released to recruiters, it is assumed that they have no objections. Under current law, they must "opt-out" in order to protect their rights.

The privacy rights of all Americans should be respected. One should not have to ask for these rights.

Today, I am reintroducing the Student Privacy Protection Act, which I introduced in the 109th Congress. This legislation will restore the privacy rights of parents and children. The Student Privacy Protection Act will change the military recruitment provision of No Child Left Behind from an "opt-out" system to "opt-in." Under my bill, families may still choose to "opt-in" to the recruiting database, but privacy will be respected by default.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the rights of students and the rights of

families, by supporting the Student Privacy Protection Act.

#### RECOGNIZING ANN RICHARDS' EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEXAS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Dorothy Ann Willis Richards, and in full support of H.R. 42—legislation recognizing the extraordinary contributions Ann Richards made to the great state of Texas and American public life.

Ann Richards had a zest for life that was evident and infectious. She was a wonderful public speaker and found ways to intimately connect with real people by tackling difficult issues that affected their everyday lives. Ann was tremendously tenacious but possessed a quick wit. She was well known for her zingy-one-liners and warm sense of humor.

Committed to issues of equity and inclusion, Ann spent much of her life championing causes related to the marginalization of women and minorities in particular. She dedicated herself to increasing the role of women in politics. Ann organized training sessions throughout Texas designed to empower women in politics and succeeded in improving the visibility of women in the National Democratic Party. Ann became the Governor of Texas in 1991 and continued to champion the inclusion of all people in the political process.

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

It is with great pride that I rise in support of H.R. 42 and recognize, before all, the contributions of a wonderful woman, committed leader and champion for all.

#### NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, during National Peace Corps week, to commemorate the service of the current 7,749 Peace Corp volunteers making long-lasting contributions to communities in 73 countries around the world.

Forty-six years ago, President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps with the aim of enabling ordinary men and women to combat the debilitating effects of poverty, disease, and war in developing countries. More than 187,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries, and it is clear that the Peace Corps' impact has been truly extraordinary.

The leadership embodied in the Peace Corps Volunteers have helped farmers find new efficient methods for crop production, developed new business plans for economically depressed communities, and inspired countless children by acting as mentors and teachers. Their compassion and commitment to service have led to significant achievements in fostering improved understanding and strengthening the bonds of friendship.

Peace Corps Volunteers remain committed to addressing some of the world's most pressing problems today. These men and women have offered crucial assistance to communities struggling to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, to regions devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and to countries rebuilding after deadly tsunamis. For their brave service and dedication, these Volunteers deserve to be commended.

To date, the 6th District of California has produced almost 400 Peace Corps Volunteers, including the following 28 current volunteers: Troy A. Agron, who is working in Azerbaijan; Caron L. Alarab, Guinea; Carol A. Batz, Tonga; Libby A. Bersot, Botswana; Jennifer M. Busick, Bolivia; Eldon L. Christenson, Guinea; Rustin P. Crandall, Guyana; Joseph P. Deschenes, Albania; Tameron A. Eaton, Eastern Caribbean; Amil A. Gehrke, Georgia; Robyn M. Grahm, Honduras; Donald F. Hesse, Jordan; Jessica D. Holloway, Armenia; Connor J. Kamada, Senegal; Anna F. Kuhn, Tanzania; Abigail M. Lafrenz, Bulgaria; Bridget M. Leddy, Kyrgyzstan; Ana Alecia Lyman, Mozambique; Sydney F. McCall, Bolivia; Morgan C. Montgomery, Honduras; Laura M. Norton, Madagascar; Jordan M. Reeves, Panama; Uriah S. Reisman, Panama; Jacob E. Rich, Peru; Emily C. Ryan, China; Elicia F. Smith, Kenya; Katherine L. Theiss-Nyland, Malawi; Kyla H. Wall-Polin, Bulgaria.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the 46th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps and to celebrate the achievements of these passionate men and women who have succeeded in making our world more peaceful.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRIS  
MEYER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Meyer, the Vice President of Convention Center Sales for the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority.

In his role with the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority, Chris has effectively promoted and implemented important programs which have marketed Las Vegas as a trade show destination. As a result of his efforts through Trade Show Trade Mission, the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority has marketed Las Vegas as a destination for trade shows for organizations such as the Con-

sumer Electronics Show, the National Association of Broadcasters, Magic, and ConAg/ConExpo.

By helping to redefine Las Vegas as a trade show destination, Chris and the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority have increased Las Vegas tourism and revenue. As a result of Chris's Trade Mission, international tourism has increased as well. According to estimations, as a result of the Trade Missions to Brazil and China, an additional 3,000 Brazilian and Chinese tourists have visited the Las Vegas area. This alone has led to approximately \$4,515,000 of revenue for the Las Vegas area.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Chris Meyer and his many achievements. His dedication to the Las Vegas community is commendable and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, the promise of America means different things to different people. To some, it may represent better economic opportunities. To others, it is having access to a better education, better healthcare, or a better job. To still others, it is simply the chance for a better life.

But regardless of how we define the "promise of America," there is little doubt that Neighborhood Centers Inc.—Houston's largest and fastest-growing human services agency—is making that promise a reality for thousands of people in Southeast Texas. And the scope of that accomplishment is being underscored this month, as Neighborhood Centers celebrates its 100th anniversary of providing education, resources, and connections to the area's most vulnerable communities. Our Congressional District is served very well by Neighborhood Centers Inc.'s facilities and programs.

Founded in 1907 by Alice Graham Baker—the grandmother of former Secretary of State James Baker III—Neighborhood Centers Inc. stands as a shining example of how innovative strategies and consistency of purpose, animated by a heart as big as Texas, can produce truly transformational change.

From its inception, Neighborhood Centers has focused on helping underserved communities to achieve their full potential. The organization pursues this mission not by concentrating on the weaknesses of a neighborhood and its residents, but by building on the unique skills, strengths, resources, and capabilities that already exist. It then works to nurture these assets in order to create self-sufficiency, individual empowerment, and long-term economic and social development.

The result is a unique approach for connecting people with what they need to fully realize the promise of America: child and family care, education, job skills, entrepreneurial incubators, leadership development, legal assistance, after-school programs, citizenship services, teacher training, and activities for seniors that encourage aging in place.

The ability and willingness to provide these services have brought Neighborhood Centers

face to face with numerous challenges over the years. But challenges are not uncommon to the agency. It has traditionally been Houston's go-to organization when it comes to dealing with the region's most complex issues. As Angela Blanchard, president and CEO, once said: "The harder it is, the better we like it."

Neighborhood Centers' response to Hurricane Katrina demonstrates clearly that those are not mere words.

When the storm forced hundreds of thousands of New Orleans residents to flee to Houston, Neighborhood Centers created a special program called Stay Connected. It provided evacuees assistance in finding jobs, healthcare, homes, and other essential human needs. It worked to restore a sense of community for those who decided to make Houston their home. It helped rebuild lives, renew hope, and revitalize opportunity. To date, Stay Connected—which is largely staffed by Katrina victims—has served more than 4,000 families.

That brings me to my final point about Neighborhood Centers: This is an organization defined by compassion, concern, and commitment.

The agency and everyone involved with its mission—including corporate partners such as JPMorganChase, Shell, Chevron, and Aramark—share an unbounded faith in human potential.

They truly believe that people, when treated with respect and dignity and given a chance to grow and to build self-esteem, can have a profoundly positive impact on families, communities, and the entire social and economic fabric not only of Houston but of America as well. Potential is not just an abstract concept to Neighborhood Centers. It is a concrete foundation for touching lives, lifting hearts, and fulfilling promise.

Over the past 100 years, Neighborhood Centers has never sidestepped an opportunity—or avoided an obligation—to keep that potential alive. In doing so, it has not simply made the American Dream a reality. It has kept the Human Dream alive. I cannot think of a more significant contribution to this country to those who make it great.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
ESTHER RENTERÍA

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow Californian, Esther Rentería, who passed away January 8, 2007, at her Montebello, California home at the age of 67. Esther was a skilled journalist who was committed to increasing the presence of Latinos in broadcast media.

For decades, Esther advocated to increase the numbers of Latinos in the news and other television programs. She understood the importance of Latino children watching people on television who looked like them and could relate to them. Esther's endless advocacy and enthusiasm helped increase and positively modify the presence of Latinos in the media.

In 1969, Esther was the first Latina to appear in a nightly newscast with the premiere of "Ahora!" on KCET-TV, and in 1970 she

worked as an associate producer on "The Sistema Is Over," a series based on issues relevant to the daily lives of Latinos in the U.S. In 1986, she cofounded the National Hispanic Media Coalition, an organization that monitors Federal Communications Commission regulations on broadcast media. The organization successfully petitioned the FCC to revoke broadcast licenses of those television stations who neglected to hire a sufficient number of Latinos.

Esther's work did not end with her behind-the-scenes efforts to make Latinos more visible on national TV. She also founded the Hispanic Americans for Fairness in Media to award scholarships to young students who aspire to future careers in media. Esther's advocacy on behalf of the Latino community has been instrumental to the changes that have taken effect since. Esther is survived by her husband, Martin Rentería, former chief of police for the Montebello Unified District's police department, four sons, and a sister.

I extend my sympathy to Esther's husband, children, and family. She will be missed dearly.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall vote No. 110. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 556, the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. TIM SNOW

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Tim Snow for his long and distinguished career at Thomas & Mack Development Group.

Tim began his work with the Thomas & Mack Development Group in California during the mid-1980s and soon after moved to Las Vegas where he was instrumental in implementing extensive land development projects. Tim is responsible for developing a 100-acre area of land near McCarren International Airport into the McCarren Center. Today, the McCarren Center is comprised of 30 buildings and nearly 2 million square feet of office and light industrial space.

During his tenure at Thomas & Mack Development, Mr. Snow also developed a 20-acre ranch which today stands as the headquarters for Harrah's Entertainment. While with the Thomas & Mack Development Group, Mr. Snow oversaw the development of the Blue Diamond Ranches, the Eastgate Plaza, and the Nevada Financial Center. Mr. Snow also shares an ownership position in the important 100-acre Northern Beltway Industrial Center. Throughout his long and illustrious career with

the Thomas & Mack Development Group, Tim has guided the expansion of the Las Vegas Valley and his vision has led to the development of a mature business and thriving community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Tim Snow. His dedication to the Las Vegas community is commendable and I applaud his distinguished record of success. I wish him the best in his retirement.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to reasons beyond my control.

On Monday, March 5, 2007, I had to tend to some family matters and thus missed rollcall votes 119 and 120. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

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RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES OF ODESSA BROWN

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege that I rise today to recognize Odessa Juanita Brown for her achievements and milestones as she celebrated her 85th birthday on March 1, 2007. I have known Odessa for most of my life. She and her husband Frank, and their children lived on Cimarron Street, in Los Angeles, and my family lived around the corner—that date's back to the late-1950s. Our families have remained in contact since then.

Odessa Brown has remained a committed community servant, participant in civic and fraternal groups, and an active church member over that 50-year period. She has been a member of Trinity Baptist Church for 61 years; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Chapter Alpha Gamma Omega of Los Angeles, California, the same Chapter of which I am a member, for 25 years; and a volunteer at the election polls for the last 20 years. Odessa has been Worthy Matron of Skylight Chapter 51 of the Eastern Star and was a member of the NAACP. Today she is taking computer technology classes at Santa Monica Emeritus College. Not enough of a role model, yet? Well, Odessa has maintained an exercise routine of walking a mile almost every day for more than two decades—including hills, by the way.

Odessa Brown's leadership skills, her commitment to service, and her creative talents have been a true lifetime blessing to her family and community. She served as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader of her daughters' troops. She used her artistry to design and sew her daughters' beautiful handmade dresses when they were small. Everyone knew the three Brown girls because of their uniquely crafted dresses.

Odessa's culinary talents are also memorable, and family, friends, visitors have craved her cooking from coast to coast. She has creatively hosted small and large family dinners and barbeques, and cooked for neighborhood block parties and festivals. Her "monkey bread," oh, yes, that monkey bread—is the most desired food at all family gatherings.

Odessa is a dedicated and devout Christian, and her church continues to be important part of her life. She and her husband, Frank, joined Trinity Baptist Church in 1946, the year they were married. She has been an active member since. Their five children—Marion, Gwen, Kathleen, Frank, and Reginald—grew up in Trinity. Her grandson, James, attends Trinity, and her other grandchildren, who live outside Los Angeles—Cameron, Brian, Rachel, Charesse, Kahlil, Imani, and Camara—have visited. Odessa's great grandchildren, Cameron and Ciera, are expected to one day be the fourth generation to worship at Trinity. Odessa is a Deaconess and is a longtime member of the Gospel Choir, which was directed by the late Inez Caston. Odessa regularly and lovingly still participates in church projects.

Odessa was born in Lewisville, Arkansas, on March 1, 1922, and Frank was born in Stamps, Arkansas. They joined the church not long after they had moved to Los Angeles. They were part of the great war-era migration of African Americans from the south to the north and west.

Odessa was the fifth child of Annie and Joe Brown. She had three brothers—Joseph, Clarence (deceased), and Cleant, and three sisters, Mary (deceased), Bernice (deceased), and Margie. The church was an important part of their community and Odessa was baptized at Galilee Baptist Church in Lewisville at 11 years of age.

From a young child, Odessa was extremely creative, artistic, and talented, whether she was in the kitchen helping her mother bake or designing and sewing outfits for her dolls. She started cooking at the age of seven and her teacher was her sister, Mary. When her parents attended church, they would return to a fantastic meal. Her parents were surprised to find out that she was the genius behind the great family meals. Her mother taught her how to sew and she quickly picked up the skill. She always helped her Mom around the house.

Odessa's parents were extremely resourceful. The Brown family understood the value of land ownership. Annie Brown's family was considered middle class, and they owned land. She inherited river land from her parents, which is still owned by the Brown Family, and she and her husband, Joe, purchased land together, as well. Joe was a hard working, proud farmer who raised his seven kids with the proceeds from the land. He grew corn, cotton, truck patches (watermelon), and raised animals (chickens, hogs and cows). He marketed his own products and sold direct to consumers. He also showcased his animals at conventions and fairs.

He was a chef and cooked at clubhouses, and was known for another unique skill—making ice cream. He sold his produce and ice cream at church conventions, and his fondness for making ice cream was passed down to Odessa, who developed homemade ice cream as a specialty. Annie also was an entrepreneur and learned how to use a pressure

cooker to process vegetables and fruit. This, of course, was a rarity in that period. With this unique talent, the community could have food stored during the winter months. Annie became the expert who trained others in the community on the benefits of using the pressure cooker to preserve foods.

In 1942, many things changed in the lives of the Brown family, as it did for most families in the country. The three Brown brothers, Joseph, Clarence, and Cleant joined the Army to serve their country during World War II. Joe Brown, now had a challenge. He too desired to serve his country and left for California to work in the Navy Shipyard in northern California. Odessa and her sister left Lewisville for California. For a short time, Odessa worked at a Ford Plant in northern California. Frank, having finished his tour of duty in the U.S. Army, decided to settle in Los Angeles. Odessa and Frank married, and began building a family. They soon settled as one of the first African American families in Leimert Park.

Years later, after her eldest children left home for college, Odessa decided it was time to pursue her dream. She registered for college and earned her bachelors of arts degree from California State University at Dominguez Hills. Odessa then taught as a substitute teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School System.

Her quest to learn continues, as she has mastered the newest technologies. She now uses the computer and sends e-mail messages to her family. She continues to exercise her creative design skills by knitting and crocheting, and shares knitted scarves and crocheted blankets with family and friends.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Odessa Juanita Brown as she celebrates her 85th birthday. She is truly an inspiration and a community treasure. I wish her many more years of health and prosperity.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

##### HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th birthday of the Girl Scouts of the USA. I wish to recognize the incredible contributions Girl Scouts have made to the United States over the past 95 years.

Since their inception in 1912, the Girl Scouts have used different skill-building exercises and instruction to inspire over 50 million young women of this country to reach their full potential as members of their communities and as citizens of the United States. With the acceptance of the Girl Scout Promise, young women around the world make a commitment to respect themselves and others, to help people at all times, and to be honest and caring in all that they do. Today, over 3.5 million Girl Scouts are working with each other and their communities to help build a brighter future for all of us.

This Saturday, young women from over 200 Girl Scout troops in my district will gather for a Girl Scouts of the USA birthday party. I am honored to have the privilege of joining them for this special celebration and I look forward to proudly thanking them for all of their hard work. These young women are truly an inspi-

ration to me, to the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and to all American citizens.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN BOUTIN

##### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen Boutin for her leadership as director of Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth.

For the past 7 years, the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth has provided a safe and secure environment for abused and neglected children. At their facility, the Partnership provides a nurturing environment that teaches these children life skills and provides them with new opportunities for success.

Under Kathleen's leadership and direction, the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth operates two Safe Place programs, two drop-in centers and two additional centers are being constructed. In 2005, Nevada Partnership was responsible for Clark County's first count of homeless youth. This past year, they have assisted over 1,500 homeless youths. The Partnership also provides Nevada's homeless youth with medical care, emergency shelter services, long-term residential programs and the opportunity to transform their lives.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Kathleen Boutin for her leadership of the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. The service that she and her organization provide for the area's homeless youth is laudable. I applaud Kathleen for her leadership and wish her continued success in their efforts to improve the lives of our cities' youth.

#### EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Chairman, I regret that I was unable to vote on H.R. 800, the Employee Free Choice Act, because of previously scheduled family matters. Had I been present, I would have enthusiastically cast my vote in support of this very important bill. In addition, I would have voted against each of the three anti-worker amendments and the Republican motion to recommit.

As a strong supporter of the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively, I have been an original cosponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act in each session of Congress that it has been introduced.

I believe it is critical that workers be able to make their own decision—freely and fairly—

about whether or not to form a union. Although we have had several years of economic growth and high corporate profits, middle-class families in America continue to feel the squeeze of stagnating incomes coupled with rising health care, education, and housing costs. By passing the H.R. 800 today, we can take an important step towards easing the middle class squeeze by giving workers a free choice to join together to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Some have said that this bill would abolish the secret ballot election. It would not. It simply gives employees a choice. Employees can still petition for an election, but if a majority of workers sign cards saying they want a union now, they get a union, and the employer must respect that choice.

This is about fixing the current system for forming unions and bargaining, which is badly broken. But above all, it is about respect and fairness for middle-class America, ensuring that workers have a choice—and a voice—at work.

#### EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

##### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 800, the Employee Free Choice Act, and I applaud Chairman MILLER and the Education and Labor Committee for making working families and the rights of organized labor a national priority.

Every employee's right to organize must be protected. Too often, this is not the case, and I saw it first hand when I worked in the retail industry. While many companies respect the rights of their employees, others put up hurdles and even break the law to keep workers from effectively coming together to fight for improved working conditions. This must be stopped.

H.R. 800 ensures that American workers have a voice in the workplace. It allows workers to decide whether they want to form a union if the majority of workers sign authorization cards in support of the union, and it strengthens penalties for employers that discriminate against union supporters.

This legislation is about strengthening America's working families. Union workers earn almost 30 percent more, on average, than non-union workers and approximately 44 percent more when you take into account wages and benefits.

In my home State of Minnesota and throughout the country, families struggle every day to make ends meet. The Employee Free Choice Act protects employees' right to organize, allowing workers to bargain for the higher wages and the better benefits that American families rely on and that they deserve.

On behalf of the working men and women of Minnesota, I am proud to support this legislation.

BLUE DOG COALITION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, one of the benefits in being a Member of Congress is the privilege of working in our Nation's Capitol. The United States Capitol, in my mind, is among the greatest museums in the world—filled with fine art, intricate architecture, and amazing statues of our country's most important historical figures.

Obviously, the Capitol is a place of great historical significance. One of the most important votes ever taken in this House was the declaration of war against Japan on December 8, 1941. This was followed 3 days later with declarations against the Axis, Germany and Italy. This in turn was followed in 1942 by declarations against Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania. My friends, this was the last time Congress formally declared war against any nation.

For me, and I know for many of my friends in the Blue Dog Coalition, the opportunity to serve in this body is an honor bestowed on us by our constituents. Quite frankly, a great responsibility comes with this honor—a responsibility to represent the views of all our constituents, rather than the views of partisans on the left and right. This is why the Blue Dog Coalition advocates for a middle-ground in our policies, and I think the American people agree, the middle is the best place to govern. Madam Speaker, we have to be bipartisan, we have to be sensible, and we have to try and work together in a harmonious way to find solutions to the difficulties facing our Nation.

When I first came to Congress a Member asked me what I wanted to change about America. I thought about this real hard, and I was surprised at how quickly I came to my answer. My answer was that I did not want to change America. No country in the world cares for its citizens and provides them with the amount of support as the government of these United States of America. While I do not want to change America, our country does have problems, and I think we can address these best by working together. So, I want to challenge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let us start being a little more civil and little more cooperative with each other.

Two weeks ago the House debated a resolution honoring our soldiers and disagreeing with the President's proposal to send an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq. Sadly, many of my friends on the other side of the aisle allowed the debate to disintegrate into questions about the patriotism of Members of Congress, as though you are only patriotic if we blindly follow the President's every decision lock step. How shameful. I wonder what our Founding Fathers would think of the idea that the President's policies shouldn't be question or criticized. Seems to me if that was the Founder's goal they wouldn't have created the Congress, a bicameral co-equal branch of government. Instead they would have suggested we create a new kingdom out of America, or perhaps ad-

vocated for a government very similar to the one we overthrew in Iraq. Thankfully, in their infinite wisdom the Founders understood the necessity of debate, of questioning the administrations' policies, of a representative Republic. How ironic that members of the Republican Party came down to the floor and questioned the patriotism of Members of Congress for doing exactly what the Founders intended—debate policies so you can arrive at the best decision for the American people.

Now, one of the biggest challenges facing America, and something Congress debates every year around this time is our budget situation and our deficit. In 1980 I was elected to the State House in Tennessee. I remember one day traveling to Nashville from my home in Byrdstown when I heard on the radio that we had just increased our national debt to \$1 trillion. That frightened me. A trillion dollars is a lot of money, but it was a particularly high amount in the 1980s. Back then it was a struggle to raise our debt limit by \$15 to \$20 billion. Now we raise our debt ceiling every year by hundreds of billions of dollars without even batting an eye. Many times we do it without having an up-or-down vote on that particular debt increase.

After I heard that report on the radio back in 1981 I began to pay closer attention to our national debt. Over the next 12 years I watched as our debt by grew by almost \$3 trillion. I kept thinking to myself, how is this possible? It took almost 200 years for the debt to reach \$1 trillion, and yet, over a short period of time in the 80s and early 90s the debt tripled. Then in the 1990's we put in place pay-as-you-go budget rules that forced Congress and the administration to budget like every American family—meaning that the Federal Government could only spend what it took in. The result was a return to budget surpluses that helped us actually pay down a little bit of our national debt. Now, I know it was only a projection, but by the time President Clinton left office we were looking at having a 10-year surplus over \$5 trillion. Unfortunately, the next administration and Republican-led Congress allowed PAYGO to expire and the results were predictable, and \$8 trillion reverse of fortunes. So now we find ourselves in a situation where our annual deficits, excluding the Social Security surplus, exceed \$400 billion and our national debt is currently \$8.8 trillion, which amounts to \$29,000 for every man, woman, and child in this country. Where is the fiscal responsibility in that? What happened to the Republican Party? The so-called party of smaller government just couldn't resist dipping into the Treasury's cookie jar to feed their spending frizzy. Sadly, the big losers of this policy are my grandchildren and the soldiers returning home from war. They will be the ones taxed with paying down our debt. That, my friends, is immoral and shameful.

You know, my chief of staff recently had a baby they nicknamed Willis. The first thing Willis did when he came into this world was cry. Now I know why he was crying. He had just been born and he inherited his share of the national debt—\$29,000. By the time he is old enough to have a job his share of the debt limit will be more than five times the cost of the first house I bought for my family in the late 1960s. We have got to do better than this. We have a moral responsibility to do better than this. This Congress has taken the first steps by reinstating PAYGO rules in the

House. Now we must go one step further and make them part of the statute.

Now, I would like to go back and talk about Iraq a little more. Too often I hear folks in this Chamber saying the Democratic policy is "cut and run" and the White House policy is "stay the course." Both of these are wrong. We can't stay the course, and we can't cut and run.

Last week I saw that Vice President CHENEY was in Japan thanking our troops, and I remembered that we still have troops in Japan following World War II. We also have military bases still operating in Germany from that war. Additionally, we have thousands of troops in South Korea even though the Korean War ended long ago. We still have soldiers in Kosovo and Bosnia and Serbia and the Balkans from our involvement there in the 1990s. You know, it is worth noting that our friends on the other side of the aisle criticized President Clinton in the 1990s for our involvement in that conflict, saying it was not our duty to "Nation build," and they wanted to set up a timetable for withdrawal. I believe our current President even lobbed those criticisms when he was a candidate. Sometimes I feel like hypocrisy is the currency of Washington.

Continuing to look around the world you will notice we have a military presence in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Of course some of them are there for our current war, but many were there beforehand as a result of the Persian Gulf war. The Persian Gulf war was U.N.-sanctioned, and it is my understanding that we overwhelmed Saddam Hussein with our troop numbers, and then we used no-fly-zone in the south and north to essentially block him in his own country. But we had to keep our military in the area to protect the vast oil reserves in the Middle East region of the world.

In my opinion, from looking at history, we will always have a military presence in the Middle East. The question is how will we stay in the Middle East?

Quite frankly, we must stay in the Middle East in a manner that will help ensure the security and peace of the area. Of course we want the Iraqis to win the peace and control their own country, so the key issue is how do we help them in this endeavor? Since we destroyed the Iraqi army, one that was able to resist a larger Iranian army for 10 years, we must act as their army until we have trained enough of their new army to the point where they can take over. In the meantime, I believe we need to pull our troops out of the kill zone in Baghdad and move them to the border with Syria and Iran to cut off any support for the insurgency that may be coming from those countries. At the same time the Iraqi police forces and new military must engage and control the fight within the country. It is their country; they have to win the peace. However, we can and should support them in eliminating any terrorist cells that pop up in Iraq. I believe we can do this with quick-strike forces and our advanced weaponry with minimal American casualties.

Twelve million Iraqis voted in December of 2005. This sent me the signal that they want their own country—not an American occupied country. They have established a constitution and set up their government with elected officials and various departments. Now they also have to fight those within their country who threaten their democracy. We can assist, but the will has to be theirs.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. SUSAN  
LINDQUIST

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Susan Lindquist for receiving DRI's Nevada Medal for 2007.

Dr. Lindquist has spent decades researching the causes and possible treatments for neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, and Mad-Cow disease. Through the course of her research, Dr. Lindquist has made significant contributions to biological research methodology and clinical treatment. Like many great scientists, Dr. Lindquist has also had to find new strategies and revolutionary tactics, such as transforming the practice of *Drosophila* genetics, thereby producing the first precise method of inserting and deleting genes in a higher organism.

Over the course of her long and illustrious career, Dr. Lindquist has served as a professor in the Department of Molecular Biology at the University of Chicago and as the Albert D. Lasker Professor of Medical Science from 1999–2001. Dr. Lindquist is also a member, and former director, of the Whitehead Institute, a professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. Among her many accolades, Dr. Lindquist was named one of *Discover* magazine's top 50 woman scientists in 2002, and *Scientific American's* top 50.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Susan Lindquist and her achievements. Her contributions to medical science and biological research are truly extraordinary. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO  
AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS  
SYSTEM ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to update the feasibility and suitability studies of four national historic trails, and for other purposes.

This legislation shall authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study certain routes of the Oregon Trail to determine the suitability of becoming part of the Oregon National Historic Trail. Additionally, a 20-mile southern alternative route of the Pony Express trail shall be considered along with portions of Missouri Valley and central and western routes of the California trail to be designated as the Pony Express National Historic Trail and the Californian National Historic Trail respectively. Lastly, the Secretary shall undertake the study of certain routes for the consideration of the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail.

The recognition and maintenance of these trails provide our citizens with an opportunity

to retrace the journeys of our ancestors, and engage in living history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 5, 2007, I was unable to fly to Washington, DC. As a result, I missed votes on this day. I ask that my statement be placed in the appropriate part of the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following roll-call votes, had I been present.

Monday, March 5, 2007: "Yea" on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 390–0 (Roll No. 119). H.R. 995: To amend Public Law 106–348 to extend the authorization for establishing a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

"Yea" on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 390–0 (Roll No. 120). H.R. 497: To authorize the Marion Park Project, a committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia, and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM  
KETTER UPON HIS INDUCTION  
INTO THE NEW ENGLAND PRESS  
ASSOCIATION'S HALL OF FAME

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, William Ketter, upon his induction into the New England Press Association's Hall of Fame. For over 40 years, Mr. Ketter has worked in the newspaper business as a reporter, editor, and vice president, making innumerable contributions to journalism in Massachusetts and New England.

Mr. Ketter spent the first 16 years of his career with United Press International working as a political reporter, editor, and vice president. He would spend the next 20 years as editor and vice president of the Patriot Ledger in Quincy, Massachusetts, leaving only to become a vice president at the Boston Globe and chairman of Boston University's Journalism school.

In 2002, Mr. Ketter joined the Eagle Tribune, a daily newspaper in my district, as editor in chief and vice president of news. In 2005, when Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. of Birmingham, Alabama purchased the Eagle Tribune Publishing Company, Mr. Ketter became vice president of news. He now supervises editorial operations at several newspapers throughout Massachusetts, including the Eagle Tribune in Lawrence, MA, The Salem News, the Gloucester Daily Times and the Daily News of Newburyport, as well the rest of CNHI's 95 daily and 50 nondaily news-

papers and publications throughout the country.

Mr. Ketter has also served on the Pulitzer Prize Board, is a former president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and in 1994, served as chairman of the first World Editors Forum.

Mr. Ketter currently serves as the New England Academy of Journalists, and is a recipient of the Academy's "Yankee Quill Award" for outstanding contributions to journalism in New England.

In addition to this work, Mr. Ketter has focused his energy on bridging the gap between print media to the Internet, overseeing programs using both means to connect with readers.

Mr. Ketter has also become a leading voice on issues facing the people of Massachusetts, the United States and the world. I recently offered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, a series of articles from the Eagle Tribune on the problem of gambling addiction, and its effect on society, and individual families. I commend Mr. Ketter for his hard work and attention to this serious issue.

Mr. Ketter has also been a strong advocate defending the right to free press and has traveled the world to advocate for the free press in developing nations.

I commend William Ketter for his work as a journalist in Massachusetts and as an advocate for the issues near and dear to his heart, and I congratulate him for induction into the New England Press Association's Hall of Fame.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN  
MCDONOUGH WARD

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Kathleen McDonough Ward and in recognition of a new elementary school being named in her honor.

Kathleen began teaching in Peoria, Illinois, in 1969. In 1973, she moved to Las Vegas where she started making an impact as a substitute teacher for the Clark County School District. Three years later she taught full time at Paul Culley, Rex Bell, and Helen Her Elementary Schools. It was at Helen Her Elementary where she became very committed to a multi-age teaching concept that impacted students lives.

In addition to her significant achievements as an educator, Kathleen has also been very active in the civic community. She was an active member in the Junior Mesquite Women's Club and served as chairwoman for the Community Improvement Project for the Nevada Federation of Women's Clubs. Kathleen helped to organize the Readers/Writers group which has been in existence for over 10 years. Kathleen also organized projects to bring substantial contributions to the Candle Lighters to assist children with cancer. In 1993, after receiving her master's degree from the University of Las Vegas, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and subsequently retired in 1999. Sadly, in 2002, Kathleen lost her battle with cancer.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of Kathleen McDonough Ward.

Her dedication to education and commitment to her fellow citizens was commendable.

SALUTE TO SERGEANT TOMMASO  
POPOLIZIO—FALLEN HERO

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of a fallen Newark police officer whose tragic loss in the line of duty is mourned by his family, friends, fellow law enforcement officers, and our entire community. Sergeant Tommaso Popolizio died in the early morning hours of Saturday, March 3, 2007, at the age of 33, while working to keep our streets safe. He leaves behind his wife, four children, father and five siblings.

Sergeant Popolizio, born and raised in Newark, dedicated his life to the city where he and his family put down roots. His parents, Nicola and Sarah, immigrated to the United States in the late 1960s from Italy and settled in the North Ward of Newark, New Jersey, my home city. The youngest of seven children, Sergeant Popolizio attended my alma mater, Barringer High School and went on to study at Rutgers University, Newark. He joined the Newark police force in 1995, the first of three brothers to do so.

Sergeant Popolizio once said, "I try to do as much as I can every day that I go out there." Committed to bettering our city, Sergeant Popolizio, the consummate police officer, always rose to the occasion whether on or off duty. Noted for his bravery and dedication, Sergeant Popolizio protected our city streets and saved a number of lives. Upon first joining the police force, he was fired upon during a chase to apprehend dangerous suspects. In 1999, Sergeant Popolizio and another officer rushed into a burning building and rescued three children. Chalking up such instances of bravery to "all in a day's work," Popolizio never sought recognition, never shrank from duty, and always gave one-hundred percent to his job. It is therefore no surprise that someone with such heart and tenacity as Sergeant Popolizio was bestowed with honors and rose up the ranks of the Newark Police Department. As an East District supervisor, Sergeant Popolizio was known for his positive influence in leading by example.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sergeant Tommaso Popolizio, who died as he lived his life—selflessly and with integrity. I am honored to have had him represent my home city and I know my colleagues join me in extending our deepest sympathy to the family of one of Newark's fallen heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT  
LAKES COLLABORATION IMPLE-  
MENTATION ACT

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes provide drinking water for 40 million

people, and 56 billion gallons of water per day are used for municipal, agricultural, and industrial use. The Great Lakes contain 5,500 cubic miles of freshwater—that's 6 quadrillion gallons of water, equal to 90 percent of U.S. supply and 20 percent of world supply. In fact, if you emptied the Great Lakes onto the continental U.S., everything would be under 9½ feet of water. The Great Lakes shoreline stretches for 10,210 miles. That's a lot of sand for summer Saturdays at the beach. The Great Lakes contain over 250 species of fish, and they sustain a \$4 billion sports fishery industry and millions more in commercial fishing.

Is it any wonder that we call them great? The lakes are the foundation of our region's quality of life, and they are a national treasure.

The Great Lakes are so vast, so majestic, and so plentiful that we might think they can withstand any contamination. We take them for granted. But the Great Lakes have suffered from years of industrial pollution, stormwater and agricultural runoff, the introduction of invasive species, and wetlands and coastal habitat loss. The size and shape of the Lakes only contribute to the problem. The retention rate for Lake Superior is 191 years. Lake Michigan is 99 years. It takes the Lakes that period of time to cycle through water and get rid of pollutants. The Lakes are nearing a tipping point of environmental pollution from which they might not be able to recover. Closed beaches, fish consumption restrictions, loss of wildlife habitat, and depleted fish stocks are harbingers of problems that will only worsen over time.

Thankfully, we largely know what needs to be done to clean up and protect the Lakes. In December 2005, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, initiated through an executive order by President Bush, produced a strategic action plan for protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. The Regional Collaboration—a partnership of Federal program managers, State governors, mayors, scientists, industry leaders, anglers, hunters, environmentalists, and other interested private stakeholders—focused their attention on addressing the most critical threats to the Lakes. The diverse group of 1,500 participants developed recommendations for addressing aquatic invasive species, habitat protection, coastal health, Areas of Concern and contaminated sediment, non-point source pollution, toxic pollutants, scientific research and monitoring, and sustainable development.

Today I am introducing comprehensive legislation to address these threats. As its name implies, my bill—the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act—makes many of the necessary legislative changes to implement many of the policy recommendations contained in the Strategy. This bill prevents further biological contamination from aquatic invasive species introductions. It also helps clean up contaminated sediments in rivers and harbors and restores beneficial uses of those waters. Provisions in the legislation will restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat, and help communities improve their wastewater infrastructure and prevent sewer overflows. Finally, the bill strengthens scientific research and monitoring activities in the Lakes, so that we can monitor our progress and make good decisions on what steps to take next in clean up and restoration efforts.

The solutions are practical and manageable. The sooner we pass this bill and provide the

necessary funding levels for these programs, the less costly the solutions will be in the long run. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

AN IMPORTANT HEALTH AND  
SAFETY ISSUE FOR BERGEN  
COUNTY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to this body's attention a serious health issue affecting women and unborn children in Bergen County, New Jersey.

The Bergen Record reported last Wednesday, February 28 that the Metropolitan Medical Associates Clinic in Englewood, New Jersey had been closed down following a complaint filed by Newark Beth Israel Medical Center when it treated a woman for complications from an abortion performed at the Metropolitan Clinic. The Clinic, which performs more than 10,000 abortions a year, including about 1500 partial birth abortions, was closed for posing "immediate and serious risk of harm to patients." This very same clinic was barred from performing abortions in 1993 for its failure to protect the health and safety of its patients.

As the Record reported, "An order to halt medical services is extremely rare. This is only the second time in the last five years the [Department of Health and Senior Services] has closed one of the State's 619 ambulatory-care facilities for 'deficient care.'" Ironically, the Clinic is redirecting its patients to another local clinic owned by the same company that offers sub-par services at the Metropolitan Clinic.

Perhaps, more ironic, however, is that the State has stepped in to protect the women seeking abortions from the physical hazards posed by the Clinic's substandard care. It has not sought to address the emotional damage that these women may suffer from the trauma of an abortion. And, it certainly has not sought to address the fatal tragedy that befalls the more than 10,000 children whose mothers come to the Clinic each year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, due to a prior commitment being held in my district on Thursday, March 1, 2007, I missed the H.R. 800 "Employee Free Choice Act" vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN FANT: CON-  
SERVATIONIST AND DEFENDER  
OF OUR WILD LANDS

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Karen Fant, who devoted

her life to preserving wilderness and wildlife in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. We mourn the loss of such a treasured conservationist and pioneer in the Washington state environmental movement. She spent four decades organizing for conservation, working for groups including the Alaska Coalition, Sierra Club, Olympic Park Associates, Wild Sky Working Group, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. Her activism spanned many years, crossed state lines, and extended as far as Chongqing, China, where she dedicated herself to developing a strategy to address environmental degradation in Asia as a board member of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association.

Born in Altadena, California, Karen grew to cherish wilderness at an early age, spending her childhood hiking the Sierra Nevada Mountains with her family. She continued this passion, earning a degree in geology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Formally beginning her long legacy of protecting our wild forests, Karen first went to work for the Sierra Club in the 1970s, fighting for roadless forest preservation. In 1979, she cofounded the Washington Wilderness Coalition, an organization dedicated to empowering Washington state citizens to preserve and restore wilderness areas through grassroots advocacy and public education.

Karen once said, "We will continue to work on these issues as long as there is wild land left in the country." Friends have described her as selfless, caring, inspirational, effective, dedicated, wise, humble and relentless in organizing and empowering people to speak up for the wild places in America and around the world. Karen was the epitome of the dedicated and effective activist. She touched the lives of countless individuals throughout the Northwest. She had a knack for recognizing everyone's ability to make a difference, and encouraged people to stand up and speak out for what they believe in. She was never the loudest person in the room, but often the most effective voice at bringing people and ideas together to advance the protection of wilderness and the wild creatures that depend on it. She delighted in walking in wild, unspoiled places and bringing others out to experience the serenity, joy, and splendor of wilderness. Because of her work, the conservation community in Washington has been left with an immense knowledge of what is at stake as we fight to protect the wilderness areas that remain in the United States.

Karen was instrumental in passing the 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act, which sets aside over one million acres of new wilderness. She also initiated the efforts to preserve Wild Sky. She organized to protect the Owyhees Canyonlands in Idaho and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Finally, she organized in support of a bill that is close to my heart, The National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act. Passage of this bill is vital to protect areas in the national forest deemed as roadless and ensure that they remain free from development or devastation. As the original sponsor of this bill, I encourage you to support the protection of our national forests.

This spring, Karen's ashes will be spread among some of her favorite wilderness areas in the North Cascades and Sierras Nevadas, areas that continue to need protection to this day. Here in the U.S. Congress, I cannot imagine a better way to honor Karen's con-

servation legacy than for my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 866, the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007, which will be marked up in the Natural Resources Committee this week. This bill would serve to protect and expand the federal wilderness of the Skykomish River Valley in Washington State and ensure that ecosystems and stunning vistas in this area are enjoyed by people and wild creatures for generations to come. Passage of this legislation would be the perfect tribute to Karen's legacy.

If Congress could merely echo the unwavering efforts of this woman, we would no doubt be doing a great service to our children and grandchildren in ensuring there are wild lands for them to enjoy far into the future.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "TORTURE OUTSOURCING PREVENTION ACT"

### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce, for the third time, legislation to prohibit the outsourcing of torture by the United States government. I am hopeful that this Congress the House will finally take up legislation on this matter.

I know that policy battles can drag on for seemingly endless lengths of time. I remember that Senator Proxmire spent nearly 20 years arguing that the United States needed to ratify the Convention Against Genocide before finally succeeding to rally the Senate to action. But I know too that we cannot delay any longer in addressing the Administration's practice of transferring detainees for interrogation or other purposes to countries where there are substantial grounds for believing that the transferred individuals could face torture. I feel a rising optimism that we can end this repugnant and counterproductive practice of so-called extraordinary rendition soon, and certainly within the timeframe of this Congress.

There is no doubt that the United States is greatly challenged by violent extremists, and the terrible attacks of September 11 were not so much attacks upon our country as upon the values of liberalism, openness and democracy that we champion throughout the world. But there is a right way and a wrong way to conduct ourselves as we defend the United States from murderous criminals and terrorists.

The wrong way is to lower our standards of conduct further and further for the sake of expediency. The wrong way is to compromise our core values of human rights and dignity for all people in the face of an enemy who disdains such ideals. The wrong way is to undermine and destroy international treaties guaranteeing all people security from cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; especially when these treaties are the last line of defense for our soldiers and personnel overseas unfortunate enough to be captured on the battlefield.

The right way is to proudly and publicly hold the United States to the highest standards and prove again that our nation is founded upon the rule of law.

The practice of extraordinary rendition is a travesty, and it is illegal under any reasonable reading of U.S. and international law. The

Convention Against Torture, ratified by the Senate in 1986, provides that the United States may not "expel, return, or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture." And in 1998, this Congress passed the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act (FARRA), which states that "it shall be the policy of the United States not to expel, extradite, or otherwise affect the involuntary return of any person to a country in which there are substantial grounds for believing the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, regardless of whether the person is physically present in the United States."

Both the Convention Against Torture and FARRA prohibit the transfer of an individual to a state where there are "substantial grounds for believing" that the individual will face torture. How has the Administration gotten around this prohibition when sending detainees to countries like Syria, Jordan, Uzbekistan, and Egypt; countries which our own State Department reports are habitual abusers of human rights? The Administration has received, and accepted, so-called "diplomatic assurances" from these torturing countries that they will not abuse transferred detainees. It is shocking that the Bush Administration has repeatedly and cynically accepted the word of known torturers without any mechanism to ensure that these promises were not broken.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act will require that the Secretary of State compile an annual list of all countries in the world known to use torture; it will be illegal to transfer individuals to the countries on this list, regardless of the citizenship or physical location of the individuals. Furthermore, the Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act will close the loophole of "diplomatic assurances" which the Administration has exploited to outsource the torture of prisoners to countries such as Syria.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act provides waiver authority over the prohibition to the Secretary of State when it is certified to the appropriate Congressional committees that the country in question no longer practices torture and there is a verifiable mechanism in place to assure that the person transferred will not face torture.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act does not inhibit treaty-based extraditions in any way. In those cases, current law already provides that an individual facing extradition may challenge the extradition in the courts with an assertion of their rights under the Convention Against Torture.

Madam Speaker, it is past time for the Congress to end the practice of extraordinary rendition. I urge adoption of this important legislation.

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RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES C. METTS, JR. UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE AMERICAN CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE AWARD

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the American Center of Polish Culture today presented

Dr. James C. Metts, Jr. an award to recognize his research on the fate of General Casimir Pulaski's remains. Dr. Metts, coroner of Chatham County, Georgia, served as the chairman of a 10-year investigation to positively identify General Pulaski's remains. Mr. KINGSTON and I want to congratulate Dr. Metts upon receiving this award.

The birthday of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski in George Washington's Continental Army was marked for the first time on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, the 262nd anniversary of his birth in Warsaw, Poland.

To celebrate the occasion, the National Polish Center (also known as the American Center of Polish Culture of Washington, DC) sponsored a birthday breakfast at the Rayburn House Office Building. Among those who came were sponsors of the resolutions to make Pulaski an honorary U.S. citizen and other notables from Congress and the Polish-American community. The featured speaker, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, was president of the Piast Institute in Detroit, Michigan, and former president of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Dr. Metts was recognized for his leadership and report on General Pulaski, whose remains were found September 1996. They had been buried in a crypt under the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia, since 1853, though Pulaski had been widely rumored to have been buried at sea.

Edward Pinkowski, internationally known authority on General Pulaski, was the chief sponsor of the Pulaski identification project.

Pulaski's remains were examined by forensic specialists in Savannah since 1996. Dr. Metts said the remains are "consistent in remarkable detail with the physical appearance, life history, and cavalry lifestyle of Casimir Pulaski."

Pulaski's remains were re-interred in October 2005 in front of the monument in Savannah's Monterey Square.

At the Washington event, a wreath was laid at the heroic-size marble bust of Pulaski located in the Capitol Building. The bust was carved by Henry Dmochowski (1810–1863) from Carrara marble and moved to Capitol Hill in 1882.

According to Jack Pinkowski, Ph.D., vice chairman of the National Polish Center, "this first birthday celebration at the Capitol is important because it identifies Pulaski's correct birth date as March 6, 1745. It also gives us an opportunity to recognize the 10 years of work of Dr. Metts and his team in Poland and in the United States.

Casimir Pulaski was born and raised in Warsaw, the son of Count Joseph Pulaski, a member of the Polish parliament (Sejm). The young Pulaski won his reputation as a guerilla fighter in Poland's struggle for independence.

Political intrigue forced him to leave Poland in 1772, and he spent time in Turkey, Germany, and France. He went to America in 1777 with a letter of recommendation from Benjamin Franklin, who was solicited by Pulaski's friends. Pulaski was commissioned by the Continental Congress as a brigadier general to command four cavalry regiments and later formed the Pulaski Legions.

Among his exploits in the American fight for freedom were saving George Washington's life and the successful defense of Charleston in May 1778. He was wounded at the Siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779, and died on

board the ship *Wasp*. He was secretly buried on Greenwich Plantation next to Thunderbolt Bluffs on the banks of the Wilmington River next to the plantation where the *Wasp* was tied up to a finger wharf and where Samuel Bullfinch, captain of the *Wasp*, wrote a letter that notified General Benjamin Lincoln of Pulaski's death. He said that Pulaski died on board his ship on October 15.

Pulaski remains a symbol of Polish courage, Polish initiative, and Polish friendship for the United States.

We thank Dr. James C. Metts, Jr. for his efforts to remind us of this American Revolutionary War hero, and congratulate him on his receipt of the American Center of Polish Culture award.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE FEDERAL NUTRI- TION ASSISTANCE

### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation comprised of three sections to improve federal nutrition assistance.

The National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are two of the Nation's most successful and popular programs. Each day almost 30 million children participate in the lunch program and 9 million in the breakfast programs. Yet, there are children who are eligible for the programs who cannot participate.

Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty line are eligible for reduced price meals. A reduced price breakfast costs 30 cents per meal per child and a lunch is 40 cents per meal per child. While it may be hard to imagine, this modest fee appears to be a barrier to low income working households.

In 2004, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act (P.L. 108–265) authorized a pilot program to determine for sure whether it was the reduced price fee that was keeping children from the program or whether there might be other reasons for the lack of participation. I believe the time has come to finally fund this pilot and I propose that the Congress take this action as a part of the farm bill.

USDA has suggested that a valid pilot could be implemented for approximately \$23 million, \$10 million per year for two years, plus the cost of evaluation. This amount would not allow for a five state, state-wide pilot as was authorized but it would provide for a valid test of whether the fee is the barrier that is keeping the children from the program.

Evidence has clearly proven that hungry children cannot learn. Therefore, if we are going to educate our children in America to compete effectively in a world market, we must provide for sound nutritious school meals. As the Congress restructures our farm programs, and reauthorizes the food stamp program, we should also fund this small but important school meal pilot.

Most of the school boards in South Dakota have endorsed funding for this pilot, as has the South Dakota Farmers Union and the Argus Leader, our largest newspaper. Nationally, the pilot also enjoys wide support. The

School Nutrition Association, the Military Impacted School Association, National Farmers Union, the National Association of Elementary School Principals all support funding the pilot. The National School Boards Association has gone further and supports gradually eliminating the reduced price category, expanding the free meal category to the WIC income guideline. In short, if a family qualified for free WIC benefits, the family would also qualify for free school meals. Many state and local school boards agree with this policy.

Additionally, I'd like to acknowledge the administering State agencies and school districts that work so hard to ensure that every school meal these children receive meets the nutrition standards set forth in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required by law. To allow the USDA to better support school food professionals in their efforts, this legislation provides for a survey of foods purchased by school food authorities to be conducted once every 5 years. This data would also help the USDA to better manage the commodities that the Department purchases on behalf of schools, and also assess the economic impact of school food purchases on different commodity sectors. The most recent data on school food purchases is over a decade old and I believe this worthwhile investment is overdue.

Finally, this legislation would increase the minimum spent for food program administration in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). FDPIR provides commodity foods and education to low-income households that reside on Indian reservations so that they can maintain a nutritionally balanced diet with foods they might not otherwise have access to where they reside. There are approximately 257 tribes that receive commodity foods through FDPIR and an increase in the distribution of administrative funds is in order to better reflect the actual participation rates in this critical program.

I encourage my colleagues to support this beneficial and important legislation. It sets forth modest proposals that could make a world of difference to children and families most at risk of severe hunger.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MR. DANIEL HACKMEIER

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute a late American hero from my district. Mr. Daniel Hackmeier served our Nation with honorable distinction during World War II. Mr. Hackmeier passed in July of last year. This week, the City of Houghton, local military organizations, and community groups in the Houghton area will come together to honor Mr. Hackmeier and pay tribute to his service to our country.

Mr. Hackmeier enlisted in the United States Air Corps (which later became the Air Force) in April of 1939. He was first stationed at Selfridge Field in Mt. Clemens before being deployed to Nichols Air Force Base in the Philippines. While stationed at Clark Field, Mr. Hackmeier was promoted to Staff Sergeant Major for the 24th Pursuit Group.

When hostilities with the Japanese began, Mr. Hackmeier became part of the 71st Provisional Infantry. On April 9, 1942, when Bataan

fell to Japanese forces, Mr. Hackmeier was taken prisoner by the Japanese. In the custody of the Japanese, Mr. Hackmeier was forced to partake in the infamous Bataan Death March, one of the darkest episodes of the war in the Pacific. It has been estimated that 600–650 American and 5,000–10,000 Filipino prisoners of war died during this horrific ordeal. After surviving the Bataan Death March, Mr. Hackmeier endured as a prisoner of war for three and a half years at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines and later in Niigata, Japan.

According to those who knew him well, while captive, Mr. Hackmeier and his fellow prisoners kept up their spirits by singing the American folk song “San Antonio Rose.” Upon his release from captivity in 1945, Mr. Hackmeier was transported back to the United States by the Air Corps. When asked what airbase he would like to be transported to, Mr. Hackmeier replied, “San Antonio.”

Upon arriving in San Antonio, Mr. Hackmeier met his own “San Antonio Rose,” his future wife, Betty. Betty and Daniel were married in September of 1948. Over the course of their lives, Betty and Daniel would have five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Hackmeier remained with the U.S. Air Force after World War II and he received numerous military decorations. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism in the Battle of Bataan. He also received the Combat Infantryman’s Badge as well as the Presidential Unit Citation with two oak clusters and commendation ribbons. In addition, he was given several theater and campaign ribbons. In 1960, he received the prestigious Airman of the Year Award.

Mr. Hackmeier became acquainted with Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (U.P.) while he was in the Air Force as he was assigned to teach ROTC at Michigan Technological University (MTU) in Houghton, Michigan. There, Mr. Hackmeier came to know and love Houghton and the U.P.

In 1961, Mr. Hackmeier was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant while serving at Maxwell Air Force Base in Texas. He retired later that year, having spent thirty years serving our Nation.

Upon retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Hackmeier returned to the Houghton area that he had become so fond of while teaching ROTC. Becoming an active member of the community, he joined Copper Country Ford dealership, a position he held for twenty-five years. His wife, Betty, also became active in the Houghton community, spending twenty-five years as a Food Supervisor at Michigan Technological University.

Madam Speaker, like most heroes, Mr. Hackmeier did not seek recognition for his valor. When those around him in the community referred to him as a hero, this humble man was known to simply respond, “The real heroes are the men that died there.”

Madam Speaker, inscribed on the monument to the Pacific War Dead, in Corregidor, Philippines are the words:

Sleep my Sons, Your Duty Done . . .  
For Freedom’s Light Has Come.  
Sleep in the Silent Depths of the Sea  
Or in Your Bed of Hallowed Sod.  
Until You Hear at Dawn  
The Clear Reveille of God

While Mr. Hackmeier’s final resting place may be Houghton and not the Pacific, like his

comrades who did not survive Bataan, his duty truly has been done. As the people of Houghton, Michigan come together to recognize this hero, I would ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mr. Hackmeier for his lifetime of service and in offering our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Betty, and his entire family.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD lists me as not voting on rollcall vote 115, Ms. FOXX’s amendment to H.R. 800.

I had intended to vote “aye.”

#### EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support H.R. 995, to amend Public Law 106–348 to extend the authorization for establishing a memorial in the District or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand here today to support a bill that will honor the service of veterans who have become disabled while serving in the Armed Forces. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world. Establishing a memorial in the District of Columbia for these valiant warriors is only a small step towards repaying the insurmountable debt that all of us owe to all veterans. For, what is the price of freedom?

As President Kennedy once said, “The price of freedom is high, but Americans have always paid it.” And no one has paid a higher price than the brave men and women through the years who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude.

From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, from Washington, DC to the Battle of New Orleans, from Bull Run to Gettysburg and Antietam to Appamattox, brave Americans gave their lives so that the nation might live. And from Alsace Lorain to Verdun, and Normandy to Berlin and Pearl Harbor to Okinawa, from Inchon and Corregidor to Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, Americans have nobly sacrificed their lives so that the world may live in freedom.

The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation’s call and made supreme

sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln’s admonition to “care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family].” Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so hard to pass legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve.

Because I realize that our veterans deserve our very best, I have recently introduced H.R. 1240, the Vision Impairment Specialist Training Act (VISTA). VISTA is a means to help our nation’s blind and low-vision veterans by establishing a scholarship program for students seeking training in blind rehabilitation. There are 160,000 legally blind veterans in the United States, but only 35,000 are currently enrolled in the Veterans’ Health Administration. Members of the Armed Forces are important to our Nation and we show them our appreciation by taking care of them when they no longer can serve.

Caring for our veterans also means giving them our time. I have had the honor of visiting with some of our wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. Many of these soldiers were recovering from some of the most horrific wounds imaginable. But what made the most indelible impression on me was that to a man and woman, there was no self-pity or anger at their fate. Instead of anger or sorrow there was only concern for their fellow soldiers and pride in the certain knowledge that they had fought valiantly on behalf of a country they loved. There is no reason that any of our veterans should not receive the highest care from all of us in this country. I hope all Americans take the time to visit their local VA hospital and thank the wounded for their service to our country. We must do everything possible to let our veterans know how much we value their service.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 995.

#### COLUMBIA SPACE SHUTTLE MEMORIAL STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 807, the “Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Study Act,” which directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility and suitability of establishing a memorial to the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in the State of Texas and for its inclusion as a unit of the National Park System.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because the seven astronauts whose lives were lost aboard Space Shuttle *Columbia* were extraordinary people. To the world those astronauts were valiant heroes; to us in Texas they were also friends, neighbors, and family.

They made the ultimate sacrifice on a mission that benefited all of humanity. They deserve the highest level of honor, and their sacrifice and dedication must be commemorated

in a way that will serve to inspire the next generation of explorers. We can never forget this magnificent seven, those heroes who explored the heavens: Rick D. Husband; Michael P. Anderson; Laurel Clark; David M. Brown; William C. McCool; Kapana Chawla; and Ilan Ramon.

They were individuals of the highest caliber, always striving for excellence, and exemplifying the most noble of human traits. They were skilled professionals, scientists, clinicians, adventurers, and family men and women. The crew represented the diversity of our nation—black and white, men and women, immigrant and native-born, and included a comrade from Israel embodying the international goals of peace and cooperation.

The *Columbia* crew was deeply committed to the NASA mission. NASA provides insights into the origins, destiny, and wonder of the universe and is a source of dreams for young and old alike. These seven courageous explorers paid the ultimate price to advance our understanding of the universe, to advance our medical and engineering sciences, and to make the nation safer and more secure. Before the *Columbia* started its tragic descent, the shuttle crew completed some 80 scientific experiments. Much of their research data had already been relayed to Houston where it has added to the pool of scientific knowledge.

In the two previous Congresses, I introduced legislation authorizing the issuance of Congressional Gold Medals to the crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*. In fact, 318 joined me in co-sponsoring that legislation but the bill was never brought to the floor for a vote.

I have reintroduced the bill in the 110th Congress (H.R. 266) authorizing the coinage of a Gold Medal to pay proper tribute to our astronauts. One of the main reasons that the medal is bestowed is to make the highest ex-

pression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

Mr. Speaker, very shortly I will be introducing legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin commemorating the 50th Anniversary of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. For a half century, NASA and the JPL have been involved in many defining events occurred which have shaped the course of human history and demonstrated to the world the character of the people of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 807 and urge my colleagues to do likewise. I also invite all members to join me in bringing to a vote on the floor H.R. 266 to award Congressional Gold Medals to the crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia* and in supporting legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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TRIBUTE TO HERMAN BRUBAKER  
AND DONALD H. SCHRIVER

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a couple of buckeyes who have played an instrumental role in the growth and development of the dairy industry.

During my years in Congress, I have had the good fortune of representing, Herman Brubaker. Herman is a dairy farmer in the Preble County town of West Alexandria and he is a leader in the dairy industry.

While serving as chairman of the Board of Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA), the Na-

tion's largest dairy marketing cooperative, Herman played an instrumental role in unifying the Nation's dairy producers' efforts to work together and promote dairy consumption. For those of you unfamiliar with DFA, it is a farmer owned cooperative with 24,000 dairy farmer members in 49 states.

Herman was the President of the Board of Directors of the Strongsville, Ohio—based Milk Marketing Inc. dairy cooperative in 1998 and played an instrumental role in that cooperative joining together with cooperatives throughout the country to form DFA. His efforts were so impressive that he was chosen as the first chairman of DFA's board of directors. He held this position until he retired in 2002. Herman has also served on the National Milk Producers Federation's board of directors.

Although Herman and I have not always agreed on the details of dairy policy, I have always been impressed with his work on behalf of dairy farmers. We have had some spirited discussions and I can honestly say it has been a pleasure to serve as his Member of Congress.

I also stand to recognize Donald Schriver, who recently retired as the executive vice president of DFA is an Ohio native and a 1969 graduate of the Ohio State University. Donald Schriver grew up on a dairy farm in Lorraine County, Ohio, and has spent a lifetime within agribusiness and the cooperative business world. Like Herman, Donald was an official with Milk Marketing, Inc. when it joined with other cooperatives to form DFA. Since DFA formed in 1998, Donald has played a vital role in the cooperative's growth and development.

I thank these men for their continued support of the dairy industry. I wish them well as they enjoy their retirements.