

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF HAZEL JOHNSON

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, this Saturday, March 10th, the Happy Hairston Youth Foundation, Inc. of Bay City, Texas, in my congressional district, will honor Ms. Hazel Johnson, the Executive Director of the Economic Action Committee of the Gulf Coast. I am pleased to join the Happy Hairston Youth Foundation, Inc. in honoring this remarkable woman.

For the past 17 years, Ms. Johnson has devoted herself to serving the residents of Matagorda County. The Economic Action Committee was created to ensure Matagorda County's homebound elderly and disabled citizens receive nutritional meals. Under Ms. Johnson's leadership, the Economic Action Committee has not only continued to fulfill its original mandate of meeting the nutritional needs of the elderly and disabled, but has expanded its function to deliver other vital services to Matagorda County's senior citizens.

Under Ms. Johnson's leadership, the Economic Action Committee began providing Matagorda County's low income seniors and citizens with disabilities with air conditioning, heating, refrigeration units, and cooking stoves. Without the efforts of Ms. Johnson, many of these seniors and disabled would not have safe appliances in their homes. Perhaps Ms. Johnson's most significant accomplishment is making sure that Matagorda County's low income seniors and disabled residents do not have to go without air conditioning during the hot and humid Texas Gulf Coast summers. Anyone who has spent a summer in the Texas Gulf Coast knows that air conditioning is a necessity. In fact, for the homebound, access to air conditioning can literally be a matter of life and death.

It is therefore my privilege to join my friends at the Happy Hairston Youth Foundation, Inc. of Bay City, Texas, in saluting Hazel Johnson and her efforts to improve the lives of the people of Matagorda County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, on March 13th I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote numbers 121 and 122. Rollcall vote 121 was final passage of House Resolution 98, honoring the life and achievements of the late Dr. John Garang de Mabior, and had I been present, I would have voted, "aye." Rollcall vote 122 was final passage of House Resolution 149, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, and had I been present, I would have voted, "aye."

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF H.R. 1287: FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on the first of this month, I reintroduced the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act (H.R. 1287), which will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans.

This body has many times heard accounts of the bravery of the Filipino veterans: how they fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen; how they sacrificed for the same just cause. For too long, we have ignored the promise we made to those men to provide benefits and care equal to that provided to our own soldiers.

As the House prepares for debate on comprehensive immigration reform, let us remember the broken promises made to our Filipino World War II veterans and provide for a meaningful way to make amends by expediting the immigration petitions of their sons and daughters.

I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that recently appeared in the Washington Post that humanizes the intent of my bill.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 4, 2007]

HOPE FOR AMENDS TO FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS

(By N.C. Aizenman)

Amid the wrangling over immigration reform, virtually everyone in Congress appears to agree on one point: Filipino-born veterans who fought alongside U.S. troops during World War II deserve a break.

Denied the right to immigrate to the United States until 1990, they came hoping that their children could follow them here later, just as other groups have done. But the adult children have been required to wait twice as long—up to 16 years—as anyone else. With the veterans often too old and sick to travel home, many have died while waiting to be reunited with their families.

Now, after several longtime backers have risen to key positions in Congress, Filipino American advocates are hopeful that legislation will be pushed through to exempt the veterans' children from the immigration delay. They also are optimistic about a potentially more controversial bill that would grant Filipino veterans military pensions.

About 5,000 veterans in the United States would stand to benefit from a change in immigration provisions, and an additional 10,000 in the Philippines could be eligible for pensions.

To many in the 2-million-strong Filipino American community, the issue represents a chance to cement their political identity in a nation where they have long felt invisible, even though Filipinos rank second, behind Mexicans, in the number of immigrants living in the United States.

"Historically, we Filipinos have always been looked down on as your little brown brothers—as these acquiescent people who

would just accept anything Uncle Sam would do to them," said Jon Melegrito, communications director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations. "This is about asserting who we are as a people and how we served this country. . . . It's a call to action to stop acting like colonial slaves and to start acting like first-class citizens."

The effort builds on an association with the United States that dates to 1898, when the United States acquired the Philippines from Spain after winning the Spanish-American War.

Laws and discriminatory practices against all Asian immigrants kept Filipino numbers in the United States low through the first half of the 1900s. But in the Philippines, many residents were taught English and raised to think of themselves as something akin to Americans.

Celestino Almeda, 90, a veteran who lives in Alexandria, remembered that the director of his elementary school in Manila led students in a pledge of allegiance to the American flag every morning.

"We also celebrated all the holidays: Washington's birthday, Armistice Day," Almeda said. "In our mind, it was like America was our mother country."

When Japan invaded the Philippines in 1941, more than 200,000 Filipinos joined Americans in waging a fierce resistance, enduring such horrors as the Bataan Death March and the grueling guerrilla campaign that followed. Technically, the Filipino fighters were under overall U.S. command. But within months of the Allied victory, Congress stripped most of them of their rights as foreign veterans of U.S. forces—including the opportunity to become U.S. citizens—on the grounds that the Philippines was about to be granted independence.

Even so, the Philippines continued its close affiliation with the United States. Thousands of Filipinos joined the U.S. Navy, which until recently had major bases there. By 1970, there were more Filipinos in the U.S. Navy than in the Philippine Navy.

And, after 1965, when Congress repealed the nationality quota system that had practically prohibited Asians from immigrating, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos streamed in.

Ranging from unskilled workers and nannies to nurses and professionals who came in on occupational preference visas, the new arrivals immediately formed social, cultural and professional organizations. Before long, they were rising to prominent positions in government, unions and the military. Several won elected office, including in Prince George's County, where a sizable community settled.

Yet when it came to turning their clout into political activism on behalf of Filipino American causes, many of the immigrants hesitated, said Bing Cardenas Branigin, 50, a former regional chairman of the Filipino American federation.

"There was this sense that you shouldn't make trouble, that you shouldn't contradict the government," she said. "You should just pay your taxes and send your kids to school and keep quiet."

That began to change in the mid-1970s when anger spread over the repressive policies of the Filipino president, Ferdinand

• 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.

Marcos. As much as their opposition to Marcos galvanized the Filipino American community, it also caused rifts with those who supported Marcos.

After Marcos was ousted, community leaders looked to refocus their newfound energy on a more unifying issue. The fight for veterans' equity was a natural choice.

Since then, the veterans have won some of the benefits they lost after the war. Most notably, in 1990, Congress granted Filipino World War II veterans the same opportunity to naturalize offered to all other foreign nationals who served in the U.S. armed forces.

But the Filipino veterans remain ineligible for a military pension, forcing many of the more than 24,000 elderly veterans who became U.S. citizens after 1990 to live off food stamps and Supplemental Security Income payments.

Joaquin Tejada, 84, a former guerrilla fighter who survived two years resisting the Japanese from jungle hideouts, said he now struggles to get by with his \$545 monthly SSI check. The rent for the two-bedroom apartment he shares with another Filipino World War II veteran in Columbia Heights takes \$275.

"By the end of the month, it's hard to buy even basic food," said Tejada, who proudly sported an American flag tie during an interview.

Then there is the 16-year wait veterans face if they wish to bring over their adult children, an unintended consequence of the 1965 law lifting the quotas that had prevented most Asians from immigrating.

In their place, Congress introduced a complicated system meant to offer every country the same number of family reunification visas. But because Filipino applicants far outnumber the yearly slots allotted to them, they face the longest delays—22 years to sponsor an adult brother or sister, for instance, compared with 11 years for applicants of most other nationalities.

Candida Romulo, 72, said she and her husband, Bayani, a veteran who became a lawyer in Manila, would not have naturalized and moved to Oxon Hill had they known that the wait to sponsor their grown children would be so long.

"We did it because we wanted to give them the opportunities of living in this country. It was going to be our gift to them," Romulo said during an interview in a living room crammed with photographs of her four children.

Soon after the couple's arrival, Bayani developed a medical condition requiring frequent dialysis, making visits to the Philippines impossible. Because of their pending residency applications, his children were unable to get visas to visit him.

When Bayani suffered a severe stroke in September, his eldest son wasn't able to relay his final words to his father over the phone before he died.

"The receiver couldn't reach his bed in the ICU," Candida Romulo said. "So I told my husband, 'Your son says that he loves you very much and that he's so proud that you are his father.' My husband couldn't speak, but I could tell that he understood, because there were tears in his eyes."

Now Romulo worries that her son may never gain entry to the United States, because if a sponsor dies while the visa application is pending, there is a chance that the application will be annulled.

But she said she is still praying that Congress will pass the legislation for the sake of those veterans who remain alive.

"If that happens, I know my husband will be very happy about it, even if he is already in heaven," she said.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased that the House is joining the global community in celebrating International Women's Day.

As a woman, a mother, and a grandmother, I see the amazing accomplishments women have made in my lifetime—including the first woman Speaker of the House.

However, we still have a lot of challenges ahead of us—women still face discrimination in the workplace, lack affordable healthcare, earn less than their male counterparts and struggle to pay for childcare.

I look forward to working with the new Democratic Congress to bring real change to the women and girls of this country and provide them a future of hope and optimism.

THANKING MICHAEL GORMAN FOR HIS YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and to thank my District Director, Michael Gorman, for his years of public service. Mr. Gorman has worked by my side since I was first elected Mayor of Somerville, Massachusetts in 1989. Our city was facing difficult times: significant demographic changes and a potentially crippling cutback in state aid. Michael Gorman worked tirelessly to help me meet those challenges and to keep Somerville safe and neighborly as it became an increasing desirable place to live. We spent nine years together, improving the schools, providing dependable and cost-effective public services, diversifying the city's police and fire departments, creating green space and planting thousands of trees. His dedication to the City of Somerville was evident every hour of every day in the work he did and the causes he championed.

Mike was instrumental in helping me to make the decision to seek Congressional office. When I was elected in 1998, Mike agreed to bring his considerable talents to my District Office, serving as Director and utilizing his skills for the benefit of the entire 8th Congressional District.

For the past eight years, Mike has devoted himself to our constituents. Whether it has been helping an individual with a problem or articulating my policy positions to a community group, Mike has served the 8th Congressional District with distinction.

After almost two decades, Mike is leaving public service for the private sector. I wish him every success and thank him for his political acumen, his hard work, and his selfless dedication to the people he has helped me represent.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR TO THE TUSKEGEE AIR- MEN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for use of the Capitol Rotunda for the Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony. The bill to award the Gold Medal passed unanimously on February 28, 2006 with bipartisan support. This was a long time coming. The Tuskegee Airmen, along with their families and friends are very happy that they will finally receive the highest honor this great body can award. The President will present the Gold Medal on March 29, 2007. Other dignitaries and leaders will also be present to witness this very historical event.

The Tuskegee Airmen are a distinguished group of World War II African American veterans who fought against segregation and discrimination at home and the enemy abroad. Their fight was with dignity, steadfastness, and pride. After completing training in Tuskegee, Alabama, they bravely headed to Europe to defend their country. They completed 15,500 missions, destroyed 260 enemy aircraft, sank 1 enemy destroyer, and demolished numerous enemy installations. During their service, the Airmen earned 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, and 14 Bronze Stars. That is remarkable.

The Tuskegee Airmen were trailblazers and paved the way for other African Americans to serve and defend the U.S. Their exemplary work and commitment demonstrated once again that African Americans were not only highly capable, but willing to serve and die for freedom. As a Korean war veteran, I'm honored to have benefited from their courage and service to the military and the Nation.

As I express my support for using the Capitol Rotunda to honor great men who have served our country, I must pay honor to the men and women who are on the battlefield today. We must never forget their immeasurable sacrifices. I urge you to support this resolution and to keep our troops and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

NO COMFORT FOR COMFORT WOMEN SURVIVORS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, on January 31, 2007, my good friend and colleague, Mr. HONDA, introduced H. Res. 121 on Comfort Women, of which I am a proud co-sponsor. Given recent events, the necessity and imperative to pass H. Res. 121 by the full House of Representatives is now more important than ever. It is my hope that this non-binding resolution will signal to our friend and ally, the Government of Japan, that working to

officially resolve its longstanding historical issues will not only restore honor and dignity to the Comfort Women survivors, but bring out greater trust and cooperation among our other friends and allies in the region.

A formal apology by the Japanese government would help bring a sense of peace and healing to the women who were abused as well as to their families. Many of these innocent women were taken at a young age and suffered unspeakable and disgusting crimes that destroyed their lives. An apology cannot undo this damage, but it is important for the victims to know that the Japanese government has accepted responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner. I believe an official apology would help strengthen and improve relations between our friends and allies in the Northeast Asian region.

Without objection, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an editorial on this issue that appeared in the New York Times on Tuesday, March 6, appropriately entitled: "No Comfort."

[From The New York Times, March 6, 2007]

NO COMFORT

What part of "Japanese Army sex slaves" does Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, have so much trouble understanding and apologizing for?

The underlying facts have long been beyond serious dispute. During World War II, Japan's Army set up sites where women rounded up from Japanese colonies like Korea were expected to deliver sexual services to Japan's soldiers.

These were not commercial brothels. Force, explicit and implicit, was used in recruiting these women. What went on in them was serial rape, not prostitution. The Japanese Army's involvement is documented in the government's own defense files. A senior Tokyo official more or less apologized for this horrific crime in 1993. The unofficial fund set up to compensate victims is set to close down this month.

And Mr. Abe wants the issue to end there. Last week, he claimed that there was no evidence that the victims had been coerced. Yesterday, he grudgingly acknowledged the 1993 quasi apology, but only as part of a preemptive declaration that his government would reject the call, now pending in the United States Congress, for an official apology. America isn't the only country interested in seeing Japan belatedly accept full responsibility. Korea and China are also infuriated by years of Japanese equivocations over the issue.

Mr. Abe seems less concerned with repairing Japan's sullied international reputation than with appealing to a large right-wing faction within his Liberal Democratic Party that insists that the whole shameful episode was a case of healthy private enterprise. One ruling party lawmaker, in his misplaced zeal to exculpate the Army, even suggested the offensive analogy of a college that outsourced its cafeteria to a private firm.

Japan is only dishonored by such efforts to contort the truth.

The 1993 statement needs to be expanded upon, not whittled down. Parliament should issue a frank apology and provide generous official compensation to the surviving victims. It is time for Japan's politicians—starting with Mr. Abe—to recognize that the first step toward overcoming a shameful past is acknowledging it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on March 5 and March 6. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following bills:

Roll 119, March 5, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 995—To amend Public Law 106-348 to extend the authorization for establishing a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor veterans who served in the Armed Forces;

Roll 120, March 5, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 497—The Brigadier General Francis Marion Memorial Act;

Roll 121, March 6, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution H. Res. 98—Honoring the life and achievements of the late Dr. John Garang de Mabior and reaffirming the continued commitment of the House of Representatives to a just and lasting peace in the Republic of the Sudan;

Roll 122, March 6, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution H. Res. 149—Supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, I was attending to personal family matters in the District. Consequently, I missed Rollcall votes No. 121, "Honoring the life and achievements of the late Dr. John Garang de Mabior," and Rollcall vote No. 122, "Supporting the goals of International Womens Day."

If present, I would have voted "aye" on both matters.

CONGRATULATING NIAGARA UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Niagara University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2007 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament on March 5, 2007. Their 83-79 win over Siena University clinched the Purple Eagles' second MAAC championship and NCAA tournament appearance in the last three years. Niagara University has become the first team from Western New York since the 1960s to get to the NCAA tournament twice in a three-year span.

In addition to winning the MAAC championship, Niagara University recorded its 11th straight victory, the program's longest winning streak since its 1992-93 season. Their victory

was a total team effort. Freshman guard Tyrone Lewis led the way with a career-high 24 points, earning him the tournament's most valuable player award. Senior guard Lorenzo Miles added 21 points, while classmate Cliff Brown recorded 14 points and 16 rebounds. Both Miles and Brown were named to the all-tournament squad. Junior forward Charron Fisher also posted a double-double, his sixth of the season, with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Certainly all of the talented Niagara University players deserve praise for their part in bringing Niagara University back into March Madness. But a team is only as successful as its leader, and Coach Joe Mihalich is one of the class acts of the NCAA. Now in his ninth season at Niagara University, Coach Mihalich demands accountability from his players both on and off the court, and is a strong role model for the entire university community. Under his guidance, the Purple Eagles have advanced to the MAAC Championship game four times in the last six years, and have posted nine-straight winning seasons. Along the way, Mihalich quietly has collected the second-most wins in school history.

Madam Speaker, I could not be prouder of the Niagara University's Purple Eagles, and I wish to commend University President Father Joseph Levesque, the coaching staff and players, and students for this championship season. I will be watching the team's first round game in the NCAA tournament as they continue their winning streak and keep Niagara University on the national stage.

HONORING THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE DR. JOHN GARANG DE MABIOR

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 98, honoring the life and achievements of the late Dr. John Garang de Mabior and reaffirming the continued commitment of the House of Representatives to a just and lasting peace in the Republic of the Sudan. I thank my distinguished colleague Chairman PAYNE for his leadership in honoring a present-day freedom fighter.

Dr. Garang's lasting legacy is the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ending the thirty year civil war. But, it was against all odds that he was able to become such a leader.

It was a long journey for Dr. Garang who came from a poor family in a small Dinka village in southern Sudan. In an interview once, he told a reporter that his village was in such neglect that no one was able even to read. Thanks to a relative he was able to attend school in a nearby village and set the course for his educational advancement to eventually earn his doctorate from Iowa State University.

Yet, the plight of the people in his home country ravaged by civil strife and numerous injustices compelled him to return home. He was greeted by the Sudanese government's policies that marginalized and suppressed African communities in the South. The North had better schools, employment opportunities and infrastructure developments. Even today, you

can go to Juba, in southern Sudan, to see its effects where there is no electricity, running water or paved roads.

In the face of such challenges Dr. Garang fought to achieve a "new Sudan" where all were united and equal and worked to turn his rebel movement into a popular government, open to dialogue, cooperation and constantly suiting the needs of the nation.

Accordingly, I pay tribute to Dr. Garang's tireless efforts for the struggle of peace in Sudan. Dr. Garang was a charismatic figure who awakened the consciousness of a society. And he set the bar very high.

In order to ensure a lasting peace, we must urge President Al-Bashir and all stakeholders to maintain the integrity of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to respect human rights and to create a stabilized nation where everyone enjoys their full rights of citizenship. This is the best way to honor the spirit of Dr. Garang's life's work.

Madam Speaker, there is still work to do. Dr. Garang's premature death left a great void. May his death not be in vain. That is why I pledge my continued support for peace and development in Sudan. As we honor one of Sudan's greatest leaders as well as one of Africa's, I further extend my commitment to end the genocide in Darfur. I know Dr. Garang would agree that peace must be everywhere.

HONORING HANNAH PADAWER
STARK

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hannah Padawer Stark, of Memphis, Tennessee, who passed away early yesterday in her hometown of Memphis.

Ms. Stark was a wonderful mother and a gentle soul, with her kindness and goodwill contributing to what makes Memphis great. She was a sweet, virtuous woman and she never lost her zeal for life. Passing away at age 88, she lived life to its fullest, for years frequenting Huey's in Midtown every Sunday for live rock music with her daughter Laurie. Ms. Stark leaves behind another wonderful daughter Judy, who may have lived miles away, but was never far from her heart.

Ms. Stark had the love of not only her daughters, Madam Speaker, but also the love of all those who entered into her life, as her humanity and thoughtfulness crossed generational lines. She had a love of animals only surpassed by her love of life. Yesterday, Madam Speaker, this earth lost a friend and a lovely spirit. Hannah Padawer Stark, may you rest in peace and watch over us all.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF INDIANA STATE
SENATOR ANITA BOWSER

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of distinguished Indiana

State Senator Anita Bowser. Senator Bowser, age 86, succumbed to breast cancer peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, March 4, 2007.

Senator Bowser's career in public service began in 1980 upon her election to the Indiana House of Representatives. As a member of House, she became the first female House Speaker as she acted as the Deputy Speaker Pro-Tempore. In 1992 she was elected to the State Senate where she served as the representative of Indiana's 8th District until her recent passing. Senator Bowser was known among her colleagues as both a constitutional scholar and the "Conscience of the Senate." She worked tirelessly as an advocate for Hoosiers' civil rights and liberties. Her later career was defined by her efforts to reform Indiana's capital punishment laws. She was a prominent member of the Correctional, Criminal and Civil Matters; Education and Career Development; Ethics; and Judiciary committees, as well as the Committee of Pensions and Labors, on which she served as the senior Democrat.

Senator Bowser's illustrious service was commemorated by many awards including the Louis Ingelhart Award for Freedom of Expression, the Amnesty International Abolitionist of the Year Award, and she was a two-time recipient of the Robert Dole Owen Legislator of the Year Award from the Indiana Civil Liberties Union.

Prior to her career in the State legislature, Senator Bowser earned several graduate degrees including a law degree from the McKinley School of Law at Kent State University and a doctoral degree from the University of Notre Dame. She was a founding member of Purdue University North Central where she taught as a professor of Political Science. Senator Bowser was also a founding member of the Barker Woods Enrichment Center which provided childcare and educational services for children with special needs in Michigan City, Indiana.

Senator Bowser's legacy as a public servant will be defined by her passionate advocacy and her legislative integrity. She will be dearly missed by her family, her constituents, and all Hoosiers. It is with great pride and honor that I celebrate the life and service of Indiana State Senator Anita Bowser.

HONORING EDWARD LINDSEY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Edward M. Lindsey for his many contributions to Lawrence County, Tennessee and the world through the Lions Club organization.

Edward Lindsey joined the Lawrenceburg Lions Club in 1946. Since then he has served as president, zone chairperson, district governor, and a member of the association board of directors. Through his work and good nature, Mr. Lindsey was elected president of the International Association of Lions Clubs at the 49th Annual Convention in 1966.

Mr. Lindsey has also served the Lawrenceburg area as mayor, president of Lindsey Manufacturing Company, and president of Ed Lindsey Industries of the Blind where he received the National Board Member of the Year award from the National Industries for the Blind.

I congratulate and thank Mr. Lindsey for his numerous contributions to the people of Lawrence County. I have no doubt that a great many have been affected by his generous works.

HONORING RETIRED NAVY CAPTAIN
AND FORMER CONGRESSMAN
WILLIAM ANDERSON

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I remember reading about Captain William Anderson's adventure under the North Pole with his crew of 115 on board the USS *Nautilus*. Anderson captained the first atomic submarine from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean under the polar caps of the North Pole in 1958.

Born in Bakerville, Tennessee on June 17, 1921, Captain Anderson graduated from Columbia Military Academy in Columbia Tennessee and the U.S. Naval Academy in 1942. By the age of 39 he was promoted to Captain. ADM Hyman Rickover, the Father of the Nuclear Navy and longest-serving active duty military officer in U.S. history, tapped Anderson to be the Skipper of the first working nuclear submarine.

After a distinguished military career Capt. Anderson retired from the Navy in 1962. During his service Anderson participated in eleven submarine combat patrols and was awarded the Bronze Star among a multitude of other citations.

Upon retirement from the Navy, Capt. Anderson served as a consultant to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson for the National Service Corps. In 1964, Anderson was elected to Congress as Tennessee's Sixth District representative. He served from 1965–1973.

Never a person to seek the limelight, Captain Anderson embodied the American spirit. He may have received acclaim for his polar voyage, but he also served admirably during World War II and continued his service after retiring from the Navy in the United States Congress. Navy Captain (ret.) William Anderson, a great Tennessean, will be missed.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN WILLIAM
R. ANDERSON

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of William R. Anderson, a well-decorated Navy Captain and former Congressman from the state of Tennessee, who died late last month at the age of 85 and will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Anderson was a decorated World War II submarine combat veteran and in 1958 captained the *Nautilus*, the first nuclear submarine, and a crew of 115 on a mission under the North Pole. For the feat, the first of its kind, the *Nautilus* submerged in the Pacific Ocean, traveled beneath the polar ice cap and resurfaced four days later in the North Atlantic.

President Eisenhower awarded Captain Anderson the Legion of Merit for "foresighted planning, skilled seamanship and thorough study of the Arctic Area."

After he retired from the Navy, Anderson was elected as a Democrat to Congress from a district west of Nashville, a portion of which I now have the honor of representing in this chamber. During his tenure in Congress, from 1965–1973, he was a principled leader unafraid of speaking up for what he felt was right and questioning what he strongly felt were abuses of power by some in Washington.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in remembering a distinguished former Member of this House of Representatives and a military hero, U.S. Navy Captain William R. Anderson; thanking him for his service to our nation; and expressing our sympathy to his family for their great loss.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA
GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE
CHAMPIONS OF WASHINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to the South Ben Washington High School Panthers who won the Class 4A girls' basketball Indiana State Championship. With an 84–64 victory on March 3, 2007, the team captured its first IHSA title in school history.

In their quest towards this title, the Panthers lost their first game of the season before winning 28 consecutive contests. This also marked the first girls' basketball state title won by a South Bend public school. En route to their victory, the team broke nine state finals records and combined with their opponent, Columbus East, to break 16 finals records.

The South Bend Washington team consisted of 14 tremendous young women, including Seniors Cheneka Anderson, Lauren Archie, Katelyn Boochee, Ashley Varner, Sherice White; Juniors Shalana Murray, Emily Phillips, Meagan Phillips, and Vanessa Wiley; and Sophomores Skylar Diggins, Rakeesha Lane, Takola Larry, Alandrea Pfeifer-Nallon, and Karis Phillips.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team including Head Coach Marilyn Coddens, who was assisted by Don Coddens. I also want to acknowledge the work of school administrators, Superintendent Robert Zimmerman, Principal George McCullough, Jr., and Athletic Director Patrick Mackowiak, as additional keys to success.

In conclusion, I commend the support given by the community to this team. The athletic department sold more than three thousand tickets to the championship game while more than eleven thousand people attended the game in all. In a final show of appreciation, more than two thousand supporters gathered to welcome the team home after their victory, a commendable example of community spirit in support of the Panthers. Again, I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls' basketball team of South Bend Washington High School on the Class 4A state championship.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA
GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE
CHAMPIONS AT OREGON-DAVIS
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer a word of congratulations to the girls' basketball team of Oregon-Davis High School who captured the Class 1A Indiana state championship. Their 54–46 victory took place on March 3, 2007 at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The girls worked tirelessly throughout the season, compiling an overall record of 25–3 and winning 19 straight games to end the season. En route to their first state championship in school history, they also captured the Northland Athletic Conference title with an undefeated record in league play.

The Oregon-Davis team consisted of 19 tremendous young women, including Seniors Amber Boyle, Angela Boyle, Lien Ly; Juniors Ji Yeon Kim, Sarah Konkey, Lauren Kuss; Sophomores Maria Duncan, Nicole Mickow, Aubrey Minix, Caley Savoie; and Freshmen Kelly Gibson, Olivia Kuss, Nicole Meyer, Gabrielle Minix, Kelsey Minix, Brittnee Rannels, Alivia Sims, Samantha Sims, and Ariel Yung.

Throughout the year, the Bobcats were led by supportive coaches and school officials. Head Coach Terry Minix, an Oregon Davis High School graduate himself, was assisted by four other coaches, namely his wife Cheryl, Andrea Hoppe, Candi Goble, and Will Coatie. Also, we recognize the contributions of administrators such as Superintendent Bill Rentschler, Principle Greg Briles, and Athletic Director Will Hostrawser.

Finally, we should not overlook the popular support for this Hamlet, Indiana school. With an enrollment of only 224 students, the school sold over eleven hundred tickets for the state championship game, an example of strong community spirit.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls' basketball team of Oregon-Davis High School and their entire community for their accomplishments throughout the season.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH
CITY STATE UNIVERSITY'S BAS-
KETBALL TEAMS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, there was certainly cause for celebration in eastern North Carolina over the weekend as Elizabeth City State University overcame seemingly long odds as the seventh seeded Vikings won the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) men's basketball tournament and earned a trip to the NCAA Division II tournament. ECSU's 21–9 women's basketball team will also be heading to the NCAA Division II tournament as an at-large representa-

The CIAA consists of 11 historically black colleges and universities. It was established in 1912 and the CIAA is the nation's oldest black athletic conference. It is a conference rich in history and heritage.

The Vikings overcame perennial conference power and top-seed Virginia Union 63–60 after losing to them in double overtime a week before. It marked the first time that ECSU coach Shawn Waller, who was an all-conference player at ECSU, beat VU as a coach or player.

Led by third-year coach Tara Owns, the Lady Vikings enter the tournament after a strong regular season which ended with a tough loss in the conference finals.

It is a great honor for me to recognize the success and achievements of these outstanding young men and women student-athletes, their head coaches, and members of their staff. Their hard work and dedication to teamwork is something we are all proud of in northeastern North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to Elizabeth City State University's basketball teams.

HONORING REV. DENNIS M.
MOONEY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dennis M. Mooney of St. Mark Parish in Bristol, Pennsylvania for being named Grand Marshal of the 19th annual Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade. Father Mooney is the chaplain for all Bucks County divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and he is being recognized as Grand Marshal for his contributions to the awareness of Irish culture and tradition.

Madam Speaker, all Bucks County residents look forward to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, especially those celebrating their Irish heritage. Being named Grand Marshal is a tremendous honor, reserved only for members of the community who are highly respected and revered. Father Mooney fits these criteria and as a member of the St. Mark congregation, I am proud to call Father Mooney my parish priest.

Father Mooney was born in the Kensington section of Philadelphia and graduated from Visitation B.V.M. School and Northeast Catholic High School. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 1977, with his first assignment to St. Agnes Parish in West Chester, Pennsylvania. After 11 years at St. Hugh of Cluny Parish in West Kensington, Father Mooney returned to St. Mark and the community is better for it.

The 2007 parade, led by Father Mooney, will be held Saturday, March 10 and will embrace the theme, "Ireland, Land of our Fathers." As always, the event will feature traditional Irish song and dance, the beauty and grace of the culture brought to this country by men and women from the Emerald Isle. Madam Speaker, by holding this celebration,

our community ensures that these customs live on, and for that we owe all the members of Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Committee a huge debt of gratitude.

The committee has chosen the right man, in Father Mooney, to lead a parade that brings such pride and joy to Bucks County. Father Mooney has endeared himself to us all and has always been willing and eager to give back to the community. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Father Mooney for being given the honor of leading this parade, and thank him for his decades of service to the community.

IN MEMORY OF ALAN SHAW

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Alan Shaw of Little Rock, Arkansas, who died on February 9, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Alan Shaw was 31 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations.

After graduating from Wilbur D. Mills High School, Shaw attended Arkansas Tech University before enlisting in the U.S. Army Corps in 1998. Shaw was assigned to the 1st Battalion 5th Marines in Camp Pendleton, California, where he served two overseas tours and one sea service tour before being honorably discharged in 2002. In October of 2004, Shaw chose once again to nobly serve his country by joining the U.S. Army where he served two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and it was in his second tour where he gave his life for our country.

Alan Shaw was proud to serve in the military and is remembered as an outstanding leader and friend to his fellow soldiers. Shaw had a passion for life and a vision for the future, and his personality sparked happiness in all those around him. His dedication to making the lives of those around him and the communities he lived in better could not have been greater.

Alan Shaw gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a father, a husband and a friend. My deepest condolences go out to his wife Sharrell; his three children Austin, Jourdan and Davyn; his parents Jarrell Bentley and Noramae Shaw of Little Rock; his siblings Larry and Lisa Shaw, Bud and Terri Bradley, Darren and Mindy Shaw, Randy and Angie Shaw, Amber Shaw and Jeffrey Shaw all of Little Rock; and to his nine nieces and nephews. He will be missed by his family, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep Alan Shaw and his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

ON THE OCCASION OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor East Carolina University, a

public, 4 year institution located in Greenville, North Carolina on this, their 100th Anniversary.

On March 7, 1907, the North Carolina legislature approved the charter for the East Carolina Teachers Training School. The school was established to increase the critical need for teachers in the eastern portion of the state. The East Carolina Teachers Training School produced thousands of highly qualified educators, improving the lives of countless North Carolinians.

Madam Speaker, when the North Carolina legislature approved the charter for the East Carolina Teachers Training School, a site for the facility had not yet been selected. Cities throughout Eastern North Carolina like Kinston, New Bern and Washington were among those vying to win the state Board of Education's favor, but it was Greenville that was ultimately selected. I have never been more proud than to represent Pitt County and East Carolina University in the Congress.

The deliberate evolution of the school—from East Carolina Teachers Training School to East Carolina Teachers College and later to East Carolina University—reflects the change and positive growth of the region.

While such landmark moments speckle the history of Greenville, none are greater than the day Greenville won the rights to the new school. It is difficult to think that just 100 years ago East Carolina University would become the heart of a community or grow to become the state's third largest public university.

I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in honoring East Carolina University for the diligent efforts that have led to this most historic occasion.

HONORING FRANK W. WHITE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madame Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember Frank White, the president and former chief of the Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad. I share the sadness felt by our entire community regarding Frank's recent passing, but his friends and family are surely proud of the legacy Frank leaves behind.

Frank was a staple of the Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad from the day he joined in 1987 with his wife Marianne White, who also served as president. After leading the squad as its chief for 5 years, Frank was elected president of the organization. While performing many administrative and operational roles, Frank was the squad's strongest advocate in the community and at the municipal level, where he worked tirelessly. He was instrumental in bringing the organization a permanent home in Langhorne and was truly the voice of the squad in the community. Madame Speaker, his colleagues and those they serve are better for Frank's efforts and his dedication to the squad.

But outside of his work with Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad, Frank was the same approachable and caring man. Members of the community who were experiencing various problems would go to Frank for guidance and

counsel and Frank always knew how to help. He had a unique desire to help others; he was welcoming to his friends and neighbors. People described him as the "go-to-guy" for almost anything. It was only natural when Frank decided to extend his public service to an official capacity by running for Middletown Township Supervisor. Those who asked him to run recognized in him the characteristics that had drawn people to him for years.

Frank's commitment to public service was truly noble and one colleague described Frank as one of the most selfless people he had ever known. This is among the highest compliments one can be paid in our society, and as a community, we all owe Frank a debt of gratitude for his years of work. He not only made us safer, but served as an advocate and an inspiration to many others who followed his example. This includes his daughter Jessica, who has joined the squad. She is his youngest daughter and one of five children Frank leaves behind. Madam Speaker, his memory will be one that his wife and children can be proud of. He will be remembered for his compassion, selflessness and devotion, a legacy we should all strive to achieve.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN "GARY"
BROWN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant First Class John "Gary" Brown of Nashville, Arkansas, who died on January 20, 2007, while fighting for our country in Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Gary Brown was 43 years old when the military convoy he was riding in was attacked.

After graduating from Nashville High School, Brown attended Ouachita Baptist University before enlisting in the Army where he served his country for over 20 years. SFC Brown's first tour of duty was in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm and at the time of his death he was serving in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gary Brown was a member of Agape Church in Little Rock where he was an active participant in the men's Bible study and the children's bus ministry. Brown was also a member of the VFW and the Otter Creek Home Owners Association. His dedication to making the communities he lived in a better place could not have been greater.

Gary Brown gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a father, and a husband. My deepest condolences go out to his wife Donna; his two step-daughters Brandy Edmondson and Crystal Lunnie both of Little Rock; his brothers Larry Brown of Seguin, Texas, and Phil Brown of Nashville; his sister Wendy Wesson; two grandsons Christian Edmondson and Joshua Edmondson; and to his many nieces and nephews. He will be missed by his family, his church, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep John "Gary" Brown and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 149, which recognizes and honors the purpose of International Women's Day.

Recognizing the contributions American women have made to our Nation's progress over the course of history is so very important because their contributions have too frequently taken place out of the limelight.

It is truly remarkable when one takes note of the expansive list of contributions women have made to our country throughout its history.

From my own State of Iowa, Lilia Abron became the first African-American woman in the Nation to obtain a doctoral degree in chemical engineering at the University of Iowa.

Phyllis Propp Fowle, a native of Iowa, became the first female Judge Advocate General Officer in the U.S. Army.

Arabella Mansfield became the first female lawyer in the United States after being admitted to practice law in Iowa.

And I constantly remind myself I would not be here today had it not been for my own mother. She went back to school to obtain her four year teaching degree so she could help my family make ends meet after my father was injured in a grain elevator accident.

Using a single calendar day of the year to honor the barriers these women and countless others broke and the sacrifices they made is the least we can do to thank them for their contributions to our society.

I only hope that their stories inspire other women—and men—to work hard to achieve the promise this Nation was founded on: a place where all people are created equal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD TAX
RELIEF ACT**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, as I traveled around the 8th Congressional District during this last recess, I heard from many Hoosiers concerned about their tax burdens. These burdens are especially prevalent for new parents starting a family.

Parents across Indiana are struggling to balance work and family; to meet the costs of raising a family while spending quality time with their children. It ought to be easier.

What I heard from my constituents convinced me to introduce the Child Tax Relief Act. The bill will double the child tax credit to \$2,000 in the first year of a child's life, or in the first year after a child is adopted, to help parents defray the costs of a new child at home.

Middle class families spend an average of \$20,000 on a child before he or she turns two years old. New parents have enough to worry about already; they shouldn't have to lose

sleep over their finances too. The bill gives new parents a much-deserved break when they need it most.

I encourage my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and join me in bringing some needed relief to American families.

RECOGNIZING THE BAY AREA AL-
LIANCE FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of a drug prevention coalition in the 22nd Congressional District of Texas. The Bay Area Alliance for Youth & Families was formed in 2003 with the mission of uniting the community's resources in order to empower youth and their families in the fight against drugs and underage drinking. The coalition is committed to helping youth reach their fullest potential and equipping them with the skill and knowledge to become competent and caring citizens. The Alliance focuses its efforts on organizing the local community to address underage drinking and drug use by increasing awareness of substance abuse and the resources that are available to address it, decreasing access to alcohol in the home, school, and community environments, and changing community norms by encouraging and supporting youth who have made an active commitment to be drug-free.

The Bay Area Alliance for Youth & Families currently has 130 adult members from across the community including law enforcement officials, healthcare professionals, substance abuse counselors, teachers, and parents, as well as members who work for community service agencies, faith-based agencies, government and local businesses. There are over 1,000 youth who are part of the Alliance by being CLEAR, Clean Living Encouragement and Responsibility, members. CLEAR members have made a commitment to be drug-free and alcohol-free, and participate in voluntary drug-testing to demonstrate their commitment to be the program. They help raise awareness in their community and act as role models for other youth by living a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle.

The Bay Area Alliance for Youth & Families has partnered with many esteemed organizations. In 2006, it partnered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to create a very successful regional seminar on Methamphetamine abuse. Additionally, the Alliance has developed relationships with local colleges and universities to assess the drug and alcohol issues on their campuses and has assisted in forming a team to begin to address their issues through environmental strategies. Unfortunately Harris County, where the Alliance is based, leads the Nation in the greatest number and percentage of alcohol-related traffic fatalities. The coalition has taken steps to begin to reduce alcohol-related traffic fatalities by assuming an active role in creating the Harris County High Risk Drinking Epidemiology Work Group. The coalition also regularly holds town hall meetings where topics such as underage drinking, drug testing in schools, and internet safety are addressed.

These are just a few of the ways the Bay Area Alliance for Youth & Families is helping

to combat drug and alcohol issues in their community. I respectfully request that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Bay Area Alliance for Youth & Families for its hard work and dedication to keeping our children drug and alcohol free.

TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAIN MARTIN
WILSON**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, it is a special privilege for me to recognize Chaplain Martin Wilson. Chaplain Wilson is a 21-year veteran of the United States Border Patrol currently assigned to the Family Support Unit in El Paso, Texas. The Family Support Unit is a one year pilot program intended to provide Border Patrol Agents, staff and their families with a support network to help manage times of crisis. During his early years in the Border Patrol, Chaplain Wilson served as a program manager under my command as Sector Chief.

Chaplain Wilson is married to San Juanita Wilson who today are celebrating their 27th wedding anniversary. Together they have 4 children, Alicia, Marty Jr., Stephanie and Daisy. Marty Jr. recently followed in his father's footsteps, becoming the second in his family to join the United States Border Patrol.

In addition to his duties as Sector Chaplain, Chaplain Wilson serves as the Associate Pastor at La Verdad Community Baptist Church and is an advocate for people with physical and developmental disabilities.

Thank you Chaplain Wilson for joining us this morning and for serving our Nation as a Border Patrol agent.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FLOODING OF CELILO FALLS**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, for thousands of years, Celilo Falls was the most important native fishery and the center of a vast trade network linking the coastal and plateau peoples of the Northwest to the buffalo hunters of the Great Plains and the foragers of California. Thousands of Native people gathered at this meeting place every year during the spring and summer fish runs to harvest salmon and trade, socialize, exchange arts and ideas, and participate in ceremonial rites.

Celilo Falls was known to Native Americans as WyAm, a word which some say means "echo of falling water." Archaeological digs prior to the completion of The Dalles Dam confirmed that Indian people had continuously occupied the Celilo village site for at least 11,000 years, making it the oldest continuously occupied site in Oregon.

By the 20th century, Celilo Falls was a tourist spot famous for the sight of Indian salmon fishers dip-netting from wooden scaffolds above the rapids. But on March 10, 1957, the rising waters of The Dalles Dam inundated Celilo Falls. Celilo Village was relocated and

today sits about 10 miles east of The Dalles, on the Oregon bank of the Columbia River. It is inhabited by fewer than 100 people and comprises a collection of small houses, and abandoned trailers.

Over the years, Celilo's deteriorating state was cause for public health and safety concerns to village residents, and needed to be addressed. The Tribes requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to rebuild the village, and in 2004, Public Law 108–204 was signed into law, authorizing Celilo Village redevelopment. The law provided for repairs to the Longhouse, reconstruction of the village's main structures and infrastructure systems, and operation and maintenance of the rebuilt village. The Corps expects construction to be completed by 2009.

Today the spectacularly renovated Celilo Longhouse is used for the ceremonial First Salmon feast, an annual rite which honors the return of the life-giving fish and pays homage to allow their life cycle to begin anew. Traditionally, the feast must be completed before fishing, hunting, root-digging and gathering seasons can officially begin.

By commemorating the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls, and the ongoing restoration of the village, we are doing more than keeping the memory of a once vibrant salmon fishery and cultural center for Native Americans alive. We are looking with an eye to the future on keeping our commitment to uphold Tribal Treaty rights, restore salmon runs, and ensure that residents of Celilo Village have the opportunity to thrive, just as their ancestors were able to do for thousands of years.

HONORING HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Girl Scouts of the USA as they celebrate their 95th anniversary.

On March 12, 1912, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low held the first Girl Scout meeting which endorsed the philosophy that all girls should be afforded the opportunity to enhance their natural abilities and talents. Through community service, education, and physical activity, the Girl Scouts continue to offer girls a place to develop mentally, physically and spiritually.

Across our Nation, communities will gather this weekend to celebrate the founding of the Girl Scouts of the USA. On Saturday, I have been invited to join in the celebration with hundreds of young women from middle Tennessee. In true Girl Scout form, these young women have put in more than 4,000 hours of community service to commemorate this occasion. These service projects include furnishing snacks for a blood drive by the American Red Cross, landscaping for Holy Family Church, and collecting donated items for youth service centers and the elderly. The time and effort of these young women is having a profound impact in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to take a moment and thank the Girl Scout Leaders who freely give their time and energy to these extraordinary young women. Their dedication to

the Girl Scouts is making a difference in the lives of young women across our Nation. Congratulations to the Girl Scouts of the USA and thank you for 95 years of service to our Nation's young women.

IN HONOR OF NAAMANS LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Naamans Little League. By providing a positive outlet for children, this organization has played a vital role in shaping young leaders in my home State of Delaware.

After it was founded in 1957, the organization has grown rapidly because of its efficient organization and the valuable service it provides to the community: uniting children with sports. While it began with only 60 boys on 4 baseball teams, Naamans Little League now has over 500 players on 42 teams and has formed both a Tee Ball League and a Senior League.

I was fortunate enough to celebrate with the League after they won the Little League World Championship. This opportunity further convinced me that their significance within the community cannot be emphasized strongly enough. Their efforts have allowed countless people to understand and enjoy the benefits of physical activity, teamwork, sportsmanship, and responsibility. After spending just a short while at the celebration, it became very clear to me that this organization has a profoundly far reaching impact, shaping individuals, friendships, families, and communities.

I am pleased to announce that a flag will be flown over the capital in honor of the Naamans Little League's 50th anniversary. I commend this great organization for their immeasurable contributions to Delaware and wish them all the best on this momentous anniversary.

ADVICE ON HEALTHY LIVING

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to share with my colleagues a recent column by a constituent that offers timeless advice about healthy eating for healthy living.

[From the *The Tentacle*, Feb. 14, 2007]

OUR GOVERNMENT, OUR HEALTH, OURSELVES

(By Patricia A. Kelly)

There's a movement underway to ban the use of trans fats, but New Orleans isn't going along. Their chefs don't use them much anyway. They choose real foods, like butter, for their renowned cuisine.

Eating margarine began during World War II with bags of lard and coloring packets that you mixed in. There was a shortage of butter because of the war. Margarine use continued in my Washington suburban family because of price, I think, and, of course, the government said it was okay.

I started eating butter when in my 20s. I read something in health food literature that said butter was actually better for you than margarine. Hydrogenated (trans, polyunsaturated, hardened) fats have extra molecules attached to their chains by clever scientists. They are harder for the body to break down than natural, softer, animal fat molecules, or minimally-processed vegetable oils. They are thus more harmful to, and persistent in, the body.

Of course, the recommendations included other things, but actually allowed in the diet the star of the government nutrition wars—the infamous, then out, now in, but only a little in, egg. Drum roll, please. . . .

We've been paying taxes for this: for government nutrition experts to tell us that we should be eating margarine; that we should, or should not, eat eggs; that we should only eat special margarines; that we should not eat the margarine they were saying we should eat last week—for the past 35 years, at least. The truth was available to me, a reasonably intelligent person and an ordinary mom of limited means, surfing around in the health food literature, looking for the best way to feed my family. I read it. It seemed logical. I believed it.

If you eat artificially altered foods, you are taking a risk, because we don't yet know the long term effects, or whether there is alteration in the nutrition available from these foods, or contamination. We do all know how convenient it is for large food producers to grow cornstalks that are the same height, tomatoes that don't spoil, and apples that last, unchanged, for a year in storage. We also know how these wonder foods taste. If you can't remember the difference, go to another country and taste the fresh produce.

You can fool your vegetarian cow into eating the ground-up bones of dead animals in her feed. That doesn't make them good for her. She's not a vulture. She would never eat them on her own. If you eat her meat, it might not be too good for you either. You might not know this for 20 years, of course, until you get Jacob-Crutchfield disease, and die horribly. Ground-up bones are really cheap, though, and our government said they were safe.

Animals raised in close quarters with processed feed do better if they're given antibiotics. You might do better with them, too, if you were standing in your next-door neighbor's poop. Our government says there aren't any antibiotics left in the meat that might increase antibiotic resistance and endanger our population.

Our government also thinks it is safe to use bovine growth hormone on cows; and I'm sure the cows don't mind tripping on their own udders. We are wondering why so many nine-year-old girls are reaching puberty now, though. I'm sure it can't be due to anything they're exposed to. If you're wondering, just ask our government.

Logic dictates that, if you eat a balanced diet, you have a better chance of getting the nutrients you need. If you live on sugar and caffeine and fast, high-fat, overly refined foods, your spirit might be happier for the moment, but your body will suffer in the long run. These foods are being advertised to make money, not to help you. Eating less meat and a greater variety of whole plant foods reduces the impact of people on the environment because it takes so much more grain to feed a cow than to feed a person.

Eating a variety of seeds, grains, fruits, nuts and vegetables increases your chances of getting all the micronutrients you need. Cow's milk is really good for cows. If you eat more calories than you need, you will gain weight. Reading the labels will tell you what's in your food. Nobody reading this column would have any trouble figuring any of

this out. We don't need to, though. We have the government.

Don't get me started on HPV vaccine, and how girls mostly get the virus from boys, and boys from girls; but it's only recommended for girls.

Whatever you do, don't ask my opinion on the recent, widely publicized estrogen replacement study. It reported the outcome of giving a specific combination of mare's urine estrogen/progesterone pill to 64-year-old women who were way past menopause with no prior hormone replacement. Huge numbers of litigation conscious doctors withdrew every form of hormone replacement from virtually all of their female patients because of this one. Our government thought it was safe to take Prempro, and then, suddenly, not safe at all.

I think it would be a good idea for our government to narrow its focus back to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To me that means keeping us safe and free and unbothered with expensive nonsense, paid for with our tax dollars.

Maybe our nutrition scientists could spend their time making sure there's no poop in the ground beef, and that the cows are dead before they're skinned. I know I'd sleep better.

AMERICAN AND KAZAKHSTAN'S STRATEGIC BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, on February 28th, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan delivered his annual state of the nation address entitled "New Kazakhstan in a New World" which outlined the strategy of Kazakhstan's development for the next decade. The goals set forth in President Nazarbayev's speech serves as a roadmap for the future and improve the quality of life for the people of Kazakhstan.

In only a decade, Kazakhstan has achieved impressive economic growth and developed a strong framework of democratic government. President Nazarbayev rightfully stated in his speech that "We are no longer a country of the Third World. This is the main result of our work for the past 10 years.

Kazakhstan is now expected to double the country's gross domestic product by 2008 as compared to the year 2000. Accordingly, the GDP per capita has grown considerably, reaching \$5,000 dollars in 2006 with the forecast of \$6,500 dollars in 2007.

Kazakhstan's stable economic development has allowed the government to devote more resources to social reforms. What is most impressive are the measures to improve social protection for motherhood and childhood, to increase pensions, and to raise government controlled wages. In other words, Kazakhstan is not just offering a better future for its people, but it is also securing its democracy on the rich soil of economic and social prosperity.

Kazakhstan is blessed with abundant natural resources. However, Kazakhstan is not going to rely upon those resources alone, realizing that only a diversified economy will give this nation true independence and stability. President Nazarbayev envisions Kazakhstan as a "regional locomotive" of economic devel-

opment and a successful player in the world economy by raising the effectiveness of extractive industries, ensuring the development of non-raw materials sectors, developing modern infrastructure, implementing swift administrative reform which takes into account international practices, and promoting the achievements and opportunities of a new Kazakhstan in Central Asia and the world. Central Asia needs and relies on Kazakhstan's leadership and strong presence that affirms democratic ideas and fosters economic values for the region.

Modernizing the political system in the region is among the most important goals, and its achievement will ensure political stability for the future. I will continue to monitor Kazakhstan's improvements in the coming months, and I applaud their ability to move forward with progressive reforms that will be of a great benefit to the U.S.-Kazakhstan bilateral relationship and to the people of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's policy of promoting tolerance and inter-religious harmony among ethnic and religious groups also has been recognized internationally. Kazakhstan is making a considerable effort to deal with religious diversity in its country and in the region. In fact, all of the world's great religions are present and thriving in Kazakhstan thanks to a climate of tolerance and openness. For this reason, I welcome President Nazarbayev's willingness to "serve as an international intermediary for finding mutually acceptable political solutions for conflict situations [and] expanding and deepening the dialogue of civilizations."

The glowing sense of confidence that is portrayed in President Nazarbayev's speech is a direct reflection of the optimism of the Kazakh people. I applaud President Nazarbayev's vision and leadership in bringing Kazakhstan into a new level of its progressive development. His vision for a prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan will be a beacon to other nations in the region.

Madam Speaker, recently I had a very informative and productive meeting with H.E. Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan Ambassador to the United States. I share his optimism for the future of Kazakhstan and the growing strategic partnership between our two nations. Kazakhstan has proven itself as our firm ally and partner, and our bilateral relationship based on common values is strong as ever. The U.S.-Kazakhstan partnership in promoting nonproliferation, combating terrorism, securing peace and stability for Afghanistan and Iraq is exemplary. We are grateful for Kazakhstan's support and friendship.

I strongly believe we should assist Kazakhstan as it continues to pursue a program of economic and democratic reform for it is in our Nation's best interest to have an economically strong and democratically developed Kazakhstan in this region of vital importance.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of the Water Quality Investment Act and strongly urge its passage.

Many communities in my district, such as the city of Monmouth, have severe capacity issues with their wastewater treatment systems. Several of these communities are rural but are experiencing new growth and cannot afford to expand their wastewater systems or update their antiquated and deteriorating facilities. The overflow of sewer systems can cause untreated waste to run into streets, basements, rivers and lakes, posing obvious health, safety and environmental problems.

Additionally, 772 municipalities across the country, the majority having fewer than 10,000 people, have combined sewer systems. These systems partially separate sewage and stormwater runoff and are extremely vulnerable to sewer overflows during periods of peak rainfall. The EPA estimates that each year, overflows from combined sewer systems discharge about 850 billion gallons of wastewater and storm water containing untreated waste, toxic debris, and other pollutants into the environment.

It is imperative that we help localities improve their sewer infrastructure for the health and safety of their residents and to meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act.

The Water Quality Investment Act would authorize \$1.8 billion in federal grants over five years to municipalities for sewer overflow control and improved infrastructure. This new funding is a good first step toward addressing the EPA's estimated sewer overflow control costs of over \$150 billion.

This legislation is supported by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, which services the majority of Americans, and the Water Infrastructure Network, a broad-based coalition of environmental, conservation, municipal, public health, engineering, construction, and energy groups.

I again urge my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan legislation. Sewer system overflows are a public health risk with the biggest threat occurring in smaller communities that cannot finance the modernization of their systems. We are obligated to help these communities protect their citizens, which is why we must pass this bill.

HONORING J. JOSEPH CURRAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise before you today to salute a man who has spent many years working toward bettering the quality of life in the State of Maryland. Sadly, after almost a half-century serving the citizens of the great State of Maryland, J. Joseph Curran has retired from public office.

1. Joseph Curran, Jr., served as Attorney General of Maryland from 1987 to 2007. Mr. Curran was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, on July 7, 1931. He attended Baltimore parochial schools, Loyola High School, the University of Baltimore, and the University of Baltimore School of Law. Mr. Curran served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict, with duty in Japan and Korea.

Attorney General Curran began his career in public service in 1958 when he was elected to the House of Delegates as a law student. In

1962, he was elected to the State Senate. During this time, despite angry demonstrators picketing his home, he advocated open housing laws for Maryland. In 1967, Mr. Curran became chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and held that position for sixteen years.

In the General Assembly, Mr. Curran sponsored or fought for significant bills, including those creating the Court of Special Appeals and the District Court system. He consistently supported bills to improve the courts and the corrections system, toughen drunk-driving laws, guarantee equal rights, and require handgun permits. He also worked to modernize Maryland's divorce and alimony laws, reform adoption and guardianship, and protect victims of domestic violence.

In 1986, Mr. Curran was elected Attorney General after serving four years as Lieutenant Governor with Governor Harry R. Hughes. In 1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002, he won re-election. Under Mr. Curran, the Attorney General's Office has been a national leader in consumer protection, criminal investigations, Medicaid fraud prosecution, securities regulation, and antitrust enforcement.

During his tenure, Mr. Curran worked tirelessly on behalf of children and teens, parents, seniors, victims of domestic violence and sexual predators, and all Marylanders concerned about crime, gun violence, prescription drug abuse, and the potential impact of casino gambling.

As Attorney General, Mr. Curran launched a variety of initiatives to help Maryland's children. To protect them against sexual predators, he championed a 2004 law making it a crime to solicit a minor by computer or other means to engage in unlawful sexual conduct. He also proposed lifetime parole supervision for sex offenders and better notification to communities when sex offenders are released from prison. To reduce teen tobacco use, he led Maryland's participation in the landmark \$206 billion national settlement with the tobacco industry, which garnered \$4.4 billion for Maryland, and industry concessions on advertising and marketing cigarettes to teens. He filed suits to stop unlawful Internet cigarette sales and the use of hip-hop themes to target youth, and reached agreements with national cigarette retailers to prevent sales to youth. He led a multi-state initiative to encourage the motion picture industry to decrease smoking in youth-rated movies. To reduce juvenile crime, Mr. Curran issued a report on the link between children's exposure to media violence and youth aggression and delinquency, and distributed 600,000 media violence diaries to help parents monitor their children's consumption of media violence. Mr. Curran promoted juvenile crime prevention programs to help at-risk youth, including a mentoring program within his own office, and he conducted a statewide youth listening tour to make recommendations in his report, *In Their Own Words*, about how adults can improve their response to teens' problems.

Mr. Curran led efforts to empower people in taking control of difficult decisions they may face at the end of their lives. He began with a groundbreaking opinion early in his tenure that a competent, terminally-ill patient can refuse life-sustaining treatment, and continued with broad educational outreach and dissemination of advanced directives. In 2005, he expanded that outreach by making living wills available in Spanish. He has issued the Na-

tion's first comprehensive guide to the role and responsibilities of a health care proxy, as well as a report on policy issues related to Alzheimer's disease. He also successfully promoted legislation that created a state advisory council on end-of-life care, as well as legislation providing additional protections for Marylanders who become subjects in medical research.

To help Marylanders without insurance, Mr. Curran created a first-of-its-kind drug-pricing website, which allows consumers to compare retail prices charged by different pharmacies in Maryland for commonly used prescription drugs. He developed educational outreach materials to help seniors make good decisions about Medicare Part D, the complex federal prescription drug benefit.

In a landmark 1990 case, *Maryland v. Craig*, Attorney General Curran successfully urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold Maryland's law permitting victims of child abuse to testify via one-way television. Also before the Supreme Court, the Attorney General successfully litigated *Maryland v. Wilson* (1997). The Attorney General argued that police officers, who routinely conduct traffic stops that sometime turn deadly, may order the passenger out of the car to allow the officer to safely process the traffic stop. Mr. Curran was a long-time champion of efforts to reduce the epidemic of gun violence. He has worked for better laws and resources to help law enforcement keep guns out of the hands of criminals, including calling for restrictions on the ownership of handguns and establishing a firearms trafficking unit dedicated to the prosecution of persons who unlawfully purchase or attempt to purchase firearms.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me in thanking J. Joseph Curran for his many years of dedicated and distinguished career in service to the citizens of Maryland. He will be remembered for raising the bar and setting the precedent for future Attorney Generals in the State of Maryland.

CONGRATULATING REV. PATRICK J. SULLIVAN OF KING'S COLLEGE UPON BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, C.S.C., of King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of being named as "Man of the Year" by the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Father Sullivan has been lecturing at King's College since 2000 and is associated with the college's Sociology and Public Policy Research Institute.

Having earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy and American history at the University of Notre Dame in 1952, he received theological training at Holy Cross College in Washington, DC from 1952 until 1956. He received his master's degree in sociology from Ford-

ham University in 1959 and his doctorate degree in sociology from Catholic University in 1971.

Father Sullivan has served on the faculties of the University of Notre Dame and King's College. He has taught and written extensively on subjects including labor and management in American society, the role of the Catholic Church in labor and management issues and social justice for U.S. workers.

He served as director of urban affairs for the U.S. Bishop's Task Force on race and poverty. From 1976 to 1979, he worked to gain support from the Catholic Church, groups and individuals for impoverished textile workers in the southeastern states.

From 2002 to 2004, he served as national chaplain to the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Father Sullivan has accomplished significant research on issues ranging from welfare entitlement to the history of the Josephite Fathers, a religious community begun after the Civil War to assist impoverished African Americans.

He also studied ethnic fraternal organizations and how they helped the families of coal miners in the nineteenth century before the development of strong labor unions.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Sullivan on the occasion of this special honor. Throughout his teaching career, Father Sullivan has cultivated a sincere love for the contributions of working Americans and the need to establish and promote social justice. He has used his research, training and passion for teaching to encourage a similar appreciation in his students. Through his teaching, Father Sullivan has enriched the lives of his students and the entire community of northeastern Pennsylvania.

SANTIAGO E. CAMPOS UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to rise today in support of H.R. 544, legislation I introduced to honor Judge Santiago Campos by naming after him the Federal courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Judge Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico, and naming this building after him is a long overdue tribute.

Judge Campos passed away on January 20, 2001 at the age of 75 years old. He was a lifelong New Mexican and graduated first in his law school class at the University of New Mexico. He was appointed to the Federal bench in 1978, serving until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989.

But Judge Campos' career of public service only culminated with his service as a United States District Court Judge. He also served in the United States Navy as a seaman first class. He served as the assistant and first assistant attorney general of New Mexico. And before being named to the Federal bench, he served as a district court judge in the first judicial district in the State of New Mexico.

Judge Campos served with distinction on the bench and displayed both firmness and

compassion with those who entered his courtroom. He was very active during cases, often exercising his right to question witnesses in the middle of cross-examinations. Many agree that he became more involved in a case than other judges, but still let a lawyer try his own case. One of his most memorable cases ordered the Gannett Co. to return *The New Mexican*, Santa Fe's daily newspaper, to its former owner, Robert McKinney, due to a breach of contract.

Naming the Federal courthouse after Judge Campos is all the more fitting because of his role in transforming the U.S. Courthouse into the beautiful active place it is today. Judge Campos had a grand vision for the Santa Fe courthouse that, through his hard work, was realized during his lifetime. He was remembered for being very hands-on during the remodeling process, often seen climbing through the rubble of the construction area with a hammer in hand, questioning the contractor, and pitching in with the construction workers. As Judge Campos' former secretary, Yolanda Salazar, put it, "He was the moving force in reviving the Federal courthouse in Santa Fe and restoring it as a hallmark of justice with the respect it merits."

There are many individuals throughout New Mexico who are eager to see this legislation passed and the courthouse named after Judge Campos. He was a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration to countless New Mexicans and his spirit lives on at the U.S. Courthouse in Santa Fe. To again quote Yolanda Salazar, she said, "I will forever look upon this courthouse as 'his courthouse.'" Passing this legislation will ensure that those who look upon the courthouse will remember it as Judge Campos' courthouse as well.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. HUDSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable American, William E. Hudson, and congratulate him on his promotion to the rank of Brigadier General.

During my time in Congress, I have come to greatly respect and admire Brig. Gen. Hudson's profound patriotism and sense of duty to his country. Brig. Gen. Hudson is currently the Acting Chief of the Joint Staff of the Colorado National Guard and Commander of the Space Operations Group of the 140th Wing at Buckley Air Force Base. In a matter of days Brig. Gen. Hudson will assume the role of Assistant Adjutant General for the Colorado Air National Guard.

As the former commander of the 137th Space Warning Squadron at the Greeley Air National Guard Station, Brig. Gen. Hudson was responsible for ensuring the squadron performed its vital—and unique—mission of providing immediate, global missile warning and space launch detection in the event of an attack against our Nation.

Brig. Gen. Hudson received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps at New Mexico State University. Over the course of his illustrious career, he has served our Nation in a variety of capacities. He was recently the Battle Watch Captain at European Com-

mand's Joint Operations Center in Stuttgart, Germany. Additionally, Brig. Gen. Hudson has served as Weapons Controller, Chief of Training, Chief of Plans, Chief of Intelligence, Chief of Communications Operations, and Director of Operations for the 154th Air Control Group at Buckley Air National Guard Base.

As an officer, husband, and father, Brig. Gen. Hudson is truly an extraordinary American. I am humbled by his patriotism and sincerely grateful for his life of service to our Nation. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Brigadier General William E. Hudson.

RECOGNIZING DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY AND ITS 2007 PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dialogue on Diversity on the occasion of its 13th Annual Public Policy Forum and to thank them for their work toward the advancement of all people, in particular racial and ethnic minorities. I am proud to recognize the Dialogue's efforts to inform the public and stimulate dialogue on issues such as immigration reform, education and health-care disparities.

Dialogue on Diversity is a membership based organization of professional men and women from the Americas who work together to promote the intercultural exchange of ideas and work to foster constructive dialogue among diverse people. Founded in 1989, it is committed to improving the economic and social condition of women in the United States and around the world.

I am pleased that Dialogue for Diversity has chosen to address our broken health care and immigration systems during its 13th Annual Public Policy Forum. Both of these issues are important challenges facing all walks of life in our nation and forums like the Dialogue on Diversity are needed to help to address these important issues.

Again, I commend the Dialogue on Diversity on the occasion of its 13th Annual Public Policy Forum and wish them the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chester Township Police Department in the Township of Chester, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! The good citizens of Chester Township are celebrating their Police Department's 50th Anniversary.

The Chester Township Police Department was formally organized in 1957 with the hiring of Edward M. Strait. As the first full time police officer, he set out to organize a well-trained and regulated association of part time volun-

teer officers to assist him in his duties. Patrolman Strait was named the department's first Chief of Police in early 1958 and was joined by additional full time officers in the mid 1960s.

Chief Strait and his department achieved public acclaim as being both efficient and progressive. Special and Reserve Officers served their community with countless hours of volunteer time, sharing the same risks facing the full time officers. One hundred and five officers served with the reserve as members of the Chester Police Association through 1984 when the association was disbanded.

The Chester Township Police Department currently consists of 14 officers under the command of Chief Adam Schuler. The department provides both patrol and emergency response services. Education and training have always been and remain a hallmark of the Chester Township Police Department. Three officers have attended and graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Three officers have completed the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and command and three are graduates of the West Point Command and Leadership Program. Four officers have been trained by Northwestern University in traffic accident reconstruction, four are certified D.A.R.E. instructors and other officers have been trained in important police procedures.

In addition to routine responsibilities, the Chester Township Police Department offers special programs for Chester Township residents. These include: firearms safety training; personal photo identification cards for residents who require them; a program for the recovery of missing persons, particularly those with memory loss; a telephone call-in welfare check and a house check service for residents who are away on vacation.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Police Department of the Township of Chester on the 50th Anniversary of protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities!

HONORING LEWIS DEAN "L.D." MINOR OF MINNEOLA

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my admiration for the life of Mr. Lewis Dean "L.D." Minor of Minneola, Kansas, who passed away on Monday, February 26, 2007. A member of this country's "Greatest Generation," Mr. Minor was a man of integrity who lived his life in service to others. He worked hard and loved God, his family and his country.

Like so many young Americans of his generation, L.D. put country before self and joined the United States Navy in 1943. He proudly fought for freedom during World War II in the South Pacific. During his service he earned the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

When I entered Congress in 1997, L.D. was one of the first constituents to contact me regarding veterans' issues. Throughout his life, L.D. displayed tireless dedication to improving

health care access for veterans, especially those living in southwest Kansas. He constantly worked on opportunities to bring the Department of Veterans Affairs to the area for general health care while finding ways to transport veterans to a VA regional hospital for specialty care. L.D. was one of many veterans whose efforts were rewarded when a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic was opened at Ft. Dodge, Kansas, in 1999. He provided me valuable counsel and never let me forget that our Nation's veterans deserve the best health care possible.

I signed a picture taken of myself and L.D. during one of his trips to Washington, DC to represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I was proud and humbled to know the picture was displayed during his funeral. On that picture, I wrote the following words. "I wish Congress would serve our veterans as well as you and all veterans have served our country." Veterans have brought honor to our country through their military service. It is only right that their government honor its commitment to them.

In addition to his service to veterans, L.D. was devoted to his family. Over the course of their 63 year marriage, L.D. and his wife, Esther, were committed parents and grandparents. They raised twelve children and enjoyed 30 grandchildren.

In the many important roles L.D. filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty. He made his community better and his Nation safer. I join L.D.'s many friends and admirers in paying tribute to a great man. My thoughts and prayers go out to Esther and the Minor family during this time of loss.

IN MEMORY OF DALLAS SAMS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Dallas Sams of Staples, Minnesota, former state senator, father and dedicated advocate for Minnesota's environment. He passed away last Monday after a hard fight against cancer.

During his sixteen years in the Minnesota State Senate, Dallas never forgot who he was or where he came from. A tireless advocate for rural Minnesota, he never passed up an opportunity to talk about the beauty of the lakes and fields that surrounded his home. In the last few years it was hard to have a discussion with him without discussing his most recent addition or renovation to his beloved cabin, his love for which was second only to his love for his children Seth, Stacia, Jordan, Mitchell and Michael, as well as his wife Mary Beth.

Dallas nurtured his passion for the land and the environment throughout his life. As a dairy farmer and agriculture management teacher he developed a hands-on knowledge and appreciation of our state's natural environment. His understanding of the vital importance of a clean and healthy ecosystem was clear in his work at the state legislature. One of his greatest accomplishments as the foremost advocate for ethanol in the state was the passage of his legislation mandating the Nation's highest ethanol and gasoline blend standard in

2005. He supported efforts to involve more young people in family farms in order to guarantee the success of the next generation in farming as well as made sure that summer youth employment programs in Minneapolis got adequately funded. His most sought after goal and one which was sadly never accomplished during his lifetime was the successful passage of legislation dedicating a portion of Minnesota's sales tax toward maintaining and protecting the environment that he loved so much. Perhaps this year will be the year his dream will finally be accomplished.

While history will record his accomplishments in terms of legislation passed and projects funded, those who knew him, whether for a lifetime or just for a few moments, will remember the passing of a man universally known for his humor, humility and honor. The true measure of our love and admiration for Dallas will not be found in the laws he passed but in the lives he touched through his good-humored nature, ready laugh and mischievous smile.

TO PRESERVE THE WALTER REED
ARMY MEDICAL CENTER ACT OF
2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, at the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing on March 5, 2007 at Walter Reed Army Hospital, I asked the top brass who testified whether designating Walter Reed for closing in the midst of a war had contributed to any instability of personnel at the Walter Reed Hospital Garrison. Each of them responded unequivocally that the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) closing for Walter Reed had had a destabilizing effect on the hospital. Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody testified, "You're trying to get the best people to come here to work, and they know in three years that this place will close down and they're not sure whether they will be afforded the opportunity to move to the new Walter Reed National Military Center . . . that causes some issues." This and other testimony, as well as recent Washington Post revelations, have contributed directly to my introduction today of the "Preserve Walter Reed Army Medical Center Act of 2007." Several senior leaders of the relevant committees have since agreed that Walter Reed should be taken off the BRAC list and should remain open.

There have been no complaints about the hospital's world-class treatment or the hospital itself, which was built only in 1977, but the hearing laid bare a broken military health care outpatient system and bureaucracy in need of both long term and short term remedies. The epicenter of this system is its "crown jewel," Walter Reed Hospital, whose physical and administrative outpatient care have rapidly become a potent symbol of a national breakdown that will require systemic remedies for military and veteran hospitals across the country. However, because the problems are both deep and wide, we must find immediate solutions at each facility while the military outpatient systems are freed from knotted bureaucratic tangles.

A first step to take to stop the proverbial bleeding of staff and talent is to reverse the madness of closing the nation's best and most vital military hospital in the middle of a shooting war and the war on terrorism. This bill to reverse the closing of the Walter Reed base will help stabilize personnel who, as the generals testified, scatter once they believe a base will close. At a time when Walter Reed is receiving large numbers of injured soldiers and a military surge may mean many more, closing the Nation's premier military hospital should be unthinkable.

Moreover, leaving Walter Reed on the BRAC list has become increasingly untenable because closing the hospital carries with it a promise and an intention to build a new hospital by 2011. In the foreseeable future, no one expects the administration or Congress to come forward with the required \$2 billion to construct the proposed new Walter Reed in Bethesda, Maryland, and much more for moving costs and new equipment, given a huge and mounting deficit, and certainly not in the middle of a war, when funds must be committed to soldiers, their families, veterans and the war itself. Nevertheless, a repeal bill is necessary because, if Walter Reed continues to be listed for closing, Congress will continue to send a signal to personnel to make their career decisions accordingly. As is already occurring, Walter Reed will find it increasingly difficult to retain and hire personnel, including vital civilian clinical and medical personnel, particularly the very best; who the Nation expects will work at Walter Reed to attend to the most seriously injured military men and women.

Further, Walter Reed is an essential and integral component of the Emergency Preparedness Plan for the Nation's Capital. The hospital is located just 5½ miles from the White House, 6½ miles from the Capitol and 6 miles from the Washington Convention Center. Its location in the city is strategically important. If moved to Bethesda, traffic and distance would place Walter Reed outside of the homeland security system here that has been developed specifically to take account of the location of the top-tier Federal presence, officials and employees. Because of the location here Walter Reed is essential to treat mass casualties in the case of a terrorist attack. The hospital is part of the Emergency Preparedness Plan for the District, a system for treatment of acute illness or trauma of people requiring hospitalization from a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive incident. The specialized needs are above the District's hospital capacity. Thus, the District needs Walter Reed's available resources in order to comply with this Department of Homeland Security mandate.

I fully recognize that reversing a BRAC decision is and should be rare. However, particularly after what we have learned about unmet needs for injured members of the military returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, this step is minimally necessary to stabilize operations at the Nation's most important hospital base for caring for our most seriously injured members of the military. Far from establishing a precedent, no other military facility stands on the same footing or has so central a mission. The question should not be can we take Walter Reed off the closing list but, why was this hospital scheduled to close in the first place, as our soldiers were engaged in a shooting

war with no end in sight? Another question should be do we truly intend to spend billions of dollars on bricks and mortar for a new hospital instead of on our soldiers and their facilities?

Walter Reed, like other military hospitals, will not be what it should be immediately. However, we can immediately demonstrate that Congress means business by moving to stabilize the Nation's premier military medical hospital and then getting on with the rest of the job.

LETTER OF IDAHO GOVERNOR BUTCH OTTER REGARDING "THE EVOLVING WEST"

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, Idaho Governor Butch Otter recently sent a letter to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman NICK RAHALL regarding a committee oversight hearing on "The Evolving West."

In the eyes of many environmentalists, "the evolving West" means replacing good-paying jobs in forest products, mining, oil and gas and ranching with an economy based on ecotourism and bed and breakfasts. In Idaho, we call this theory part of the "War on the West." Numerous reputable studies show that jobs created by natural-resource-based industries are several times higher than seasonal jobs based on tourism. Working families in Idaho cannot support themselves on seasonal tourism jobs.

Governor Otter clearly and concisely defends the economy, culture and livelihoods of Western when he states:

The entrepreneurs, workers and families who devote their lives to agriculture, timber and mining have "evolved" with the landscape and the marketplace for generations. Such challenges as energy and transportation costs and reliability are changing their world at this moment.

But those are market-driven changes—issues of supply, demand and geography. Our people, and our way of life, deserve better than have our government further "evolve" them out of business.

Governor Otter further articulated the issue by stating "Most of the challenges facing such resource industries as agriculture, timber and mining in Idaho and throughout the West are the result of Federal Government policies that unreasonably restrict access, overregulate activity and discourage sustainable growth."

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert Governor Otter's letter in the RECORD and encourage my colleagues to read it.

BOISE, ID,
February 28, 2007.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: On behalf of the State of Idaho, and the people who value our lifestyle and their traditional resource-based livelihoods, thank you for the opportunity to enter a statement into the record for this hearing on the "Evolving West."

It's important to put "evolving" in context. The usual connotation evokes gradual change resulting from natural influences of environment and circumstance. However,

there is nothing gradual or natural about change in the West.

Most of the challenges facing such resource industries as agriculture, timber and mining in Idaho and throughout the West are the result of federal government policies that unreasonably restrict access, over-regulate activity and discourage sustainable growth.

From neglectful absentee land management that supplants local stewardship to on-the-ground environmental myopia, federal programs routinely provide disincentives to progressive collaboration. In a single generation they have changed much of the West from America's gilded hope for independence and self-sufficiency to a gelded collection of servile sycophants hopeful only for another round of government largesse.

Now some promote a "New West" that relegates resource industries to the status of historical relics. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy from those who urge even more federal control over our region's resources in the name of environmental urgency or modern realities. They blithely, yet earnestly, disregard the real people and real communities that were established and nurtured by previous pendulum swings in national priorities.

Make no mistake: Tourism, technology and even service are important and growing segments of our economy. They are adding to the diversity and vitality of Idaho and the West. However, they are no panacea for a region inhabited by people who have a special connection with the land, who understand their responsibility to it, and who still value self-reliance and individualism.

About 10 percent of Idaho's 1.4 million residents work in the forests, fields and on the land. The combined industries generate nearly \$10 billion a year in receipts. The residual impact generates thousands more jobs and additional billions of dollars.

As a member of Congress representing Idaho's 1st District, and now as Idaho's Governor, I see, hear and experience the resilience of people struggling to maintain their livelihood in resource-based industries every day. These citizens work through burdensome policies and regulations to provide for their families, support their communities and provide valuable products for U.S. citizens and the world.

Eighty-eight percent of Idaho is rural. About 63 percent of our landmass is controlled by the federal government. As a result, and to far too great a degree, we are not the architects of our own destiny. Yet the rugged geography and great size of Idaho—the ironically complementary qualities of remoteness and community—still draw people here.

Those people have used their ingenuity and resourcefulness to supply timber, food and a host of value-added products to the world. And our potential is far greater. If given the opportunity by our federal landlords, the people of Idaho could contribute mightily toward meeting America's future energy needs with home-grown, clean-burning renewable fuels found here in the "Evolving West."

Natural resource industries still provide some of the highest-paying jobs in our state. Counties with healthy timber, mining and agriculture operations have the highest per-capita income. The people working in these industries are conscientious stewards of the resources—relying on sound science and state-of-the-art technology to protect and wisely manage the natural resources for all to enjoy.

Viewing natural resource industries as "extractive" or "consumptive" gives unjustified short shrift to what made—and still makes—the West a dreamscape of opportunity and hope for people around the world.

The entrepreneurs, workers and families who devote their lives to agriculture, timber

and mining have "evolved" with the landscape and the marketplace for generations. Such challenges as energy and transportation costs and reliability are changing their world at this moment.

But those are market-driven changes—issues of supply, demand and geography. Our people, and our way of life, deserve better than to have our government further "evolve" them out of existence.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to address the topic of this hearing. Please accept my warmest personal regards and best wishes for a successful 110th Congress.

As Always—Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"
C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER,
Governor of Idaho.

NATO FREEDOM CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 987, the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act. In particular, I want to applaud my friend Mr. TANNER, and the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for taking care to support Ukraine's progress towards NATO membership and designating that country as eligible for assistance under the NATO Participation Act.

Last week, I participated in a meeting between Members of the Congressional Ukrainian Congress and Members of the Ukrainian Parliament. During that meeting, it was suggested that policymakers here in Washington might be experiencing "Ukraine fatigue."

We are not Ukraine fatigued; we are Ukraine concerned. We have seen clearly, both during the Orange Revolution and in last year's parliamentary elections, that democracy works in Ukraine, but we are concerned by what it has produced.

President Yushchenko, and indeed many in Ukraine, have signaled a strong desire to join NATO. While there have been differences of late over the pace at which Ukraine should make progress towards that goal, this legislation takes exactly the right approach in reinforcing our commitment to help Ukraine achieve it.

In particular, we can assist Ukraine in continuing a variety of reforms that not only move the country towards NATO eligibility, but also help the Ukrainian people build a prosperous and stable country more broadly. Further, it is critical that we help the Ukrainian people understand what NATO membership means, both its benefits and its responsibilities.

Again Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation to facilitate further expansion of NATO, particularly with regard to assistance for Ukraine, and I urge its passage.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE BRUCE J. EINHORN IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and recognize Judge

Bruce J. Einhorn, a friend and champion who exemplifies the values of our great Nation. As a United States Immigration Judge in Los Angeles for over 15 years, Judge Einhorn worked diligently to protect the rights of individuals who seek residency in our country, and to preserve the human rights of those around the world. On March 8, 2007, community members and leaders throughout Los Angeles are joining together to honor Judge Bruce J. Einhorn in recognition of his years of service.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood." Judge Einhorn's jurisprudence, discipline, and refusal to simply conform to previous interpretations of the law when justice had not been served, makes him one of the most eminent and influential jurists of our time. Judge Einhorn was the first immigration judge to grant asylum to HIV-positive individuals and disabled children who faced socially-based persecution and the denial of medical treatment in their native countries. He has issued major decisions granting asylum to persecuted individuals: religious minorities, women facing "honor killings," victims of female genital mutilation and of rape, racial and ethnic minorities, political dissidents, and gays and lesbians from many countries. Judge Einhorn has dedicated his entire career to maintaining the integrity of federal law and giving voice to those who deserve justice. Appropriately, Judge Einhorn was honored with the Daniel Ginsberg National Leadership Award in Civil Rights in 1999, and the award was presented to him at a ceremony at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia—the home church of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Before taking the bench as a judge, Bruce worked for the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) from 1979 to 1990. As a young lawyer he worked as the principal draftsman of the Refugee Relief Act, which for the first time in our Nation's history, gave noncitizens the right to apply for asylum in the United States. His early career work on immigration policy complemented his later practices as a United States Immigration Judge adjudicating claims under the very statute which he helped draft. Also while at OSI, Bruce worked to identify and prosecute Nazi war criminals who resided illegally in the United States. In this work he traveled to far corners of our world to conduct eyewitness depositions. Whether in the drafting of a law, or the prosecution of a war criminal—from the earliest stages of his career Bruce determinedly sought justice.

Even when away from the bench, Judge Einhorn never stops serving the public. Recently, as a leader within the Anti-Defamation League, he helped draft the Declaration of Los Angeles, which calls for a carefully balanced national policy of protecting homeland security and immigrant rights, and which has been adopted by the Los Angeles City Council, among other civil rights groups. Judge Einhorn is also a founding member of the ADL Latino-Jewish Roundtable of Los Angeles, and as Chair of the ADL's International Affairs Committee, he works with the Consuls General of Mexico, Germany, Canada, and Turkey on initiatives involving the international rights of women.

In his quest not only to adjudicate, but also to impact and interpret humanitarian law for

generations to come, Judge Einhorn has conducted continuing legal education seminars for the American Immigration Law Association and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He is known for his extensive lecturing on the separation of church and state, and has lectured to federal district court judges on sentencing guidelines for those convicted of federally defined hate crimes. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of International Human Rights Law and War Crimes Studies at the Pepperdine School of Law since 1991. As a founding member of both the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and of the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, Bruce has proven his commitment to furthering the principles of justice and tolerance.

It is no surprise that Judge Einhorn has already been recognized with numerous awards for his extraordinary commitment to protecting human rights. For his work at OSI, he received three Justice Department Special Achievement Awards, the Attorney General's Special Commendation Award, and the Distinguished Graduate Award of New York University School of Law. For his judicial work, Judge Einhorn received the Human Rights Award of the Bah'ai community in Southern California, a Certificate of Merit from the Arab-American and Iran-American Bar Associations of Southern California, and a Lifetime Professional Achievement Award from the State Bar of California. However, knowing Judge Einhorn is to know that these deserved and honored awards are not held as the greatest accomplishments of his career. His greatest achievements stem from the lives forever changed in his courtroom.

Madam Speaker, I recognize the Honorable Bruce J. Einhorn today in the United States House of Representatives, for adjudicating the laws enacted by this body with the utmost integrity, the sharpest of intellect, and a compassionate heart. I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting this exceptional man who has made inspiring contributions in public service and the legal profession. On behalf of the countless individuals to whom Judge Einhorn has given a voice and the opportunity to exercise their basic human rights and civil liberties, I say thank you and God's speed in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my district this week and missed rollcall vote No. 119 through vote No. 126. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 119, 120, 121 and 122. On Wednesday, March 7, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 123 and "yea" on rollcalls 124, 125 and 126.

CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR STUDY ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation today, along with my colleagues MIKE ROGERS and JIM MARSHALL, calling for a Federal study of the Chattahoochee Trace region of Alabama and Georgia to evaluate the feasibility of designating the corridor as a National Heritage Area.

The Chattahoochee Trace corridor is an 18-county region covering southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia. This proposal would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study of the Trace, to determine its suitability as a National Heritage Area. In Alabama, the study would specifically examine seven counties—Chambers, Lee, Russell, Barbour, Dale, Henry and Houston Counties.

The designation of the Chattahoochee Trace as a National Heritage Area would be the final piece in the Historic Chattahoochee Commission's corridor development plan which will enable us to initiate new and innovative projects to help invigorate the economies of member counties.

The 18 county bi-state Chattahoochee Trace region meets all criteria outlined by the National Park Service to qualify for National Heritage Area status. During 37 years of work, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission has clearly demonstrated that this area has a unique collection of natural, historic and cultural resources that are distinctive aspects of American history worthy of recognition, conservation and interpretation. Furthermore, the Commission has demonstrated its capabilities to organize regional partnerships to help manage and promote the resources along the lower Chattahoochee River corridor. It is also a well-known fact that the Chattahoochee Trace region provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities for area residents and visitors. Ongoing efforts to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and scenic assets in the region will only be eranced by National Heritage Area designation.

National Heritage Areas are significant geographical, cultural and historical sites, a designated by Congress. In contrast to National Parks, National Heritage Areas are not federally owned or managed, but remain maintained and controlled by local entities.

Communities designated as a National Heritage Areas are eligible for federal funding to be used for promoting tourism and conservation. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE BURKE CENTRE CONSERVANCY 2006 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outgoing 2006 Board of Trustees of the Burke Centre Conservancy.

The Burke Centre Conservancy is a homeowners' association representing 5,862 homes Burke, Virginia. A planned residential community, Burke Centre is comprised of single family homes, townhouses, condominiums, co-ops, duplexes and quad units. The variety of housing located in Burke Centre provides the conservancy with unique and pressing challenges to ensure the positive livability of the area.

The board of trustees is made up of volunteer members of the association elected on an annual basis. Their purpose is to provide services to the membership, and to maintain and protect the common areas and amenities of the association. The board creates and approves a \$4,000,000 annual operating budget funded through membership assessments.

This board has been particularly active in addressing the most pressing issues facing Burke Centre. Over the past year, they updated the community strategic plan, created a community risk management plan, conducted a stream bank instability study, completed a \$250,000 wetlands remediation project, assisted in the creation of a community parking district, completed a bathymetric study of the local ponds to establish maintenance needs and revised regulations associated with the conservancy's employee personnel, investment, and procurement policies.

Burke Centre will sorely miss the guidance and leadership of President Greg Smith, Treasurer Phil Pool, Secretary Marc Flaster, Oaks Trustee Joe Berner, and Ponds Trustee Colette Sheldon who retired at the end of the year. The conservancy, however, will remain in good hands under the leadership of recently reelected Vice President Jimi Grande, Woods Trustee Kala Quintana as well as the newly elected members of the board.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I wish to commend and congratulate the outgoing board on their exceptional commitment to their community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2006 Board of Trustees for the Burke Centre Conservancy and in wishing their community continued success in the years to come.

THE RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 2007

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, like all Americans, I am alarmed at the lack of security for rail and public transportation systems around the country. Each weekday, 11.3 million passengers in 22 States use commuter, heavy, or light rail. History has shown that terrorists view rail and public transportation systems as potential targets. March 11 will be the 3-year anniversary of the terrorist bombings of Madrid's rail system, which killed and maimed hundreds of innocent civilians. This July marks the second anniversary of the terrorist bombings throughout London's public transportation system. Last summer, a number of bombs tore through Mumbai's rail system. Just last month, a passenger train outside New Delhi caught fire when suitcases filled with flammable liquids were exploded as the train headed for Pakistan.

Despite all of these attacks, rail and public transportation security remains a secondary issue to aviation security. In the fiscal year 2008 budget, the President only requested an additional \$4 million for TSA's surface transportation budget. TSA's entire surface transportation budget is less than 1 percent of the amount the President requested for aviation security. I am alarmed by the lack of training for frontline rail and public transportation workers. I am also worried about security issues surrounding the transportation of hazardous materials through high-threat urban areas.

This Committee has taken action to close the gaps on rail and mass transit security. We have been working on a bipartisan basis to develop the "Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007." This bill requires rail and public transportation systems to complete security plans and vulnerability assessments. The bill also mandates training for frontline rail and public transportation system employees. It also gives them whistleblower protections to encourage reporting of security risks, and provides a redress process for employees who are terminated as a result of a background check. This legislation makes security grants available to rail, transit, and bus systems. Finally, it makes substantial investments in the research and development we need to find new ways to secure these systems.

My hope is that through these provisions, this comprehensive legislation will address most of the glaring gaps that currently exist in surface transportation security.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARENTS' TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Parents' Tax Relief Act of 2007 to strengthen families and empower parents in providing the best possible care for their preschool children. Senator SAM BROWBACK is introducing similar legislation in the Senate today.

This comprehensive legislation will enact family-friendly tax policies to provide parents with more child care options. It will end the long-standing inequity in the tax code that encourages daycare above stay-at-home parenting. It will also help parents spend more time with their children by encouraging flexible employment opportunities such as home-based businesses and telecommuting jobs, while ensuring that parents who take time out of the workforce to care for their children will not be penalized under the Social Security system.

Congress should recognize and support the incredible sacrifices parents make to raise their children. I have heard from Nebraska families who struggle to make ends meet so one parent can stay at home and provide the love, care and attention that every child deserves. The high Federal tax burden, which falls most heavily on the middle-class, has unfortunately made this option extremely difficult, if not unreachable, for many families. Congress has helped this situation with common-sense measures such as the child tax credit, but more should be done.

In addition, many parents need to remain in the workforce for financial or other reasons. Flexible work opportunities such as operating a home-based business or full-time or part-time telecommuting would empower working parents to spend more quality time with their children.

Parents perform a tremendous balancing act between work and family responsibilities. It can be difficult for families to survive without a second income. While the second earner's income in a family can go toward daycare costs and work-related expenses such as dry-cleaning bills and gasoline, it can also support necessities such as grocery bills, medical expenses and savings for a child's future education. Parents should be empowered with greater options for raising a family on a limited income, whether one or both parents are in the workforce.

The legislation that I am introducing today addresses the needs of modern families while empowering parents with greater choices. Greater tax relief will make it a more realistic option for parents to stay at home with their little ones in the early formative years that are so crucial to children's physical, mental and emotional development. In addition, parents would have greater opportunities for "split-shift" parenting and other options to ensure their children have the best possible care and time together as a family.

It is clear that parents want these options. A comprehensive study on balancing work and family, which was conducted by four major charitable foundations, found that 70 percent of parents believe the best arrangement for the care of young children is to have one parent at home. In a parenting survey done for Warner Books, 87 percent of mothers said they would stay at home to raise their children if they could afford it. The Family and Work Institute reported that 70 percent of working parents feel they lack enough time with their children, and nearly two-thirds of all workers would reduce their work hours by an average 11 hours a week if they could.

In addition, 62 percent of parents with preschoolers want policymakers to concentrate on making it more affordable for a parent to stay at home during a child's first few years than on improving the quality and affordability of day care. In fact, 53 percent of parents preferred direct tax cuts to stay-at-home-parents, while only 1 in 3 (33 percent) would cut costs for families using day care. Members of Congress should trust in the judgment of parents, especially regarding the care of preschool children. The Parents' Tax Relief Act, which I am introducing today with more than a dozen original cosponsors, contains seven major tax improvements to empower parents and strengthen families in America:

First, this legislation extends the Dependent Care Tax Credit to parents who choose to be at home with their children. Established in 1954, this credit currently allows families to claim up to 35 percent of \$3,000 in documented, non-parental child care costs, and 35 percent of \$6,000 in day care expenses for two children. Families who make the financial sacrifice to have one parent stay at home for their children should also benefit from this tax credit.

Second, the Parents' Tax Relief Act will make the \$1,000 child tax credit permanent and index it to inflation to retain its long-term value. This tax relief is critical for Nebraska families with dependent children.

Third, this legislation doubles the personal income tax exemption to half of its original 1948 value, from \$3,300 to \$5,000. From 1948 to 1963 when this exemption was equivalent to \$10,000 in today's inflation-adjusted dollars, America witnessed a "marriage boom," a "baby boom," and a decline in the divorce rate. There is evidence suggesting these outcomes were significantly advanced by Federal tax policy to strengthen families. Doubling the personal income tax exemption provides critical support to families with children, as well as elderly or disabled dependents.

Fourth, the Parents' Tax Relief Act eliminates the marriage tax penalty once and for all. This penalty discourages the sacred institution of marriage by unfairly taxing married couples filing jointly at a higher rate than two single individuals earning the same income. The 2001 tax cut law reduced this penalty by doubling the standard deduction for joint filers, and doubling the size of the 15 percent tax bracket for married couples. Unfortunately, these reforms will expire by 2010, along with the rest of the tax cuts enacted by Congress. The Parents' Tax Relief Act of 2007 will extend marriage tax relief to all tax brackets to prevent the government from discouraging marriage or forcing both parents into the workforce. It will also end the marriage penalty in the tax deduction for student loan interest, which currently limits married couples filing joint returns to a \$2,500 deduction, even though \$2,500 is the amount each spouse holding student debt could have claimed while single.

Fifth, this legislation will support parents who operate a home-based business. The bill establishes a standard home-office tax deduction to replace complicated IRS regulations that prevent many small business owners from deducting legitimate expenses. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that nine million of the 17.3 million small business in the United States are home-based, and 55 percent are operated by women. Many home businesses are started to provide a secondary income, which is very helpful to families with children.

Sixth, the Parents' Tax Relief Act of 2007 encourages telecommuting. It will create a

Telecommuting Tax Credit allowing employers to deduct a portion of a telecommuting employee's wage for income tax purposes. It will also allow individuals to exclude from income the value of employer-provided computers and related equipment necessary for work from home, including critical related services such as broadband Internet connection. Telecommuting is one way mothers or fathers can stay at home with their children while still contributing to family income.

Finally, the Parents' Tax Relief Act protects the Social Security benefits of women or men who choose to stay at home with preschool children. When a parent leaves the workforce to be at home with a child, the family's finances may not only suffer, but career opportunities and future earnings potential may be diminished. Parents who stay at home to care for children during prime working years may also jeopardize their future Social Security benefits.

The Parents' Tax Relief Act of 2007 recognizes the realities parents face by allowing up to ten years of flexible Social Security employment credits for parents who stay at home to raise children age six and under. Public policy should safeguard stay-at-home parenting as valuable work that contributes to the character and security of our Nation.

These seven tax improvements will empower parents and strengthen families. The Federal Government must expand choices for parents with children. The Parents' Tax Relief Act of 2007 will address the needs of modern families, including those who want to stay at home with their children without decimating their family finances, and those who want to continue working and contributing to family income while spending more time with their children.

I urge my colleagues to support choices for families by cosponsoring the Parents' Tax Relief Act of 2007 today.

TRIBUTE TO BILL THOMAS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Bill Thomas. Bill was known throughout Northeast Arkansas for his unwavering dedication to his community. His gracious spirit and his friendship will be missed by all.

Bill Thomas was a successful, independent businessman in Wynne, Arkansas. Bill built a reputation as a leader in economic development through his work as president and executive director for the Cross County Economic Development Corporation. His initiatives, which revitalized Cross County were considered a model for the entire state of Arkansas.

Bill believed that in order for a community to flourish, active involvement was essential to success. As chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission in Wynne, he helped develop a new baseball and softball facility. Bill was also on the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Club, Workforce Investment, the Crossroads Coalition, and was president-elect of the Arkansas Economic Developers. Often, Bill went above and beyond the call of duty because he was committed to a life of public service and making his community a better place.

Bill Thomas was born and raised in Cross County and graduated from Parkin High School, in 1970. He attended the University of Arkansas and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Bill later earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi, in 1975.

He is survived by his wife, LaRand Ozier, two sons, Charles Randolph Thomas of Fayetteville, William Brett Thomas of Wynne, and sister, Ann Dawes Thomas of Wynne. Bill was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Wynne. Bill's memory will continue to live through his legacy of civic service and the positive influence he had on so many lives, including my own.