

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE ARMY
RESERVE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I want to acknowledge the beginning of a year-long centennial celebration for the United States Army Reserve and to pay homage to all Army Reserve soldiers who, in the past 100 years, have answered the call to defend our Nation and to protect the freedoms and liberties we cherish.

The legacy of volunteer "Warrior Citizens" is rooted in colonial America with the soldiers of the revolutionary militia who fought for our freedom. At the birth of our Nation, President George Washington relied on the militia to build up his Continental forces for major campaigns. Later, Washington and Alexander Hamilton proposed a contingency force to support the Army that would be centrally controlled by the Federal Government.

On April 23, 1908, Congress established the Medical Reserve Corps to provide a reservoir of trained officers in time of war. The Secretary of War could order these officers to active duty during time of emergency. Four years later, a provision of the Army Appropriations Act of 1912 created the regular Army Reserve, a Federal Reserve force outside the Medical Reserve Corps. This new component of the United States Army, the first Federal Reserve force was expanded into a Federal operational force in 1916 and again in 1920.

Army Reserve soldiers have trained and served with excellence—through World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the cold war, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and in support of the global war on terror during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Today, this reserve force has grown from its beginning strength of approximately 360 medical professionals in 1908—to a community based, Federal operational force with an end-strength of 205,000 Warrior Citizens providing complementary capabilities for joint expeditionary and domestic operations in support of the United States Army.

As we begin this year-long celebration of the Army Reserve's 100th anniversary, the men and women who serve with the Army Reserve continue to play a vital role in our country's homeland security and our national security affairs abroad.

Since 1990, Army Reserve soldiers have been deployed to support every American military operation, as well as peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. In 1997, when the Red River crested 26 feet above flood stage, and more than 60,000 residents of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota, had to be evacuated, Army Reserve water purification units responded with purified water for flood victims. Army Reserve soldiers answered the call for recovery efforts after

Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana and other gulf coast States in 2005, by providing vehicles to supply fuel, Chinook helicopters for lift operations and cargo trailers for hauling debris.

Army Reserve units and individual soldiers immediately responded to the attacks of September 11 and carried out a host of missions to support rescue and recovery operations and to secure Federal facilities nationwide.

The Army Reserve has mobilized more than 166,000 troops in support of the global war on terror. These brave men and women are providing key support for combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and 18 other nations.

The centennial observance began on April 23, and it began appropriately with a reenlistment ceremony on the west front steps of the United States Capitol for 38 Army Reserve Soldiers from across the country.

Beginning with this inspiring ceremony, Army Reservists in thousands of communities throughout our Nation will join their neighbors in celebrating the contributions of this exceptional Federal force, an American institution.

Let us express our appreciation to the United States Army Reserve and the Warrior Citizens who serve with dedication and distinction as they begin their year-long centennial celebration.

COMMENDING SARAH H. DREW

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Sarah H. Drew for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Sarah is a student at Flower Mound High School in Flower Mound, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Sarah. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Flower Mound High School for their outstanding commitment to Sarah's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1905, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1906, ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENT SAFE HARBOR ADJUSTMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Bill, and commend Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member TOM DAVIS for their hard work and commitment to ensuring that District of Columbia residents have full representation in Congress.

Eighty-two percent of Americans believe that the District should have voting rights in the House. It is time to end the 206 years of "taxation without representation" for District of Columbia residents.

H.R. 1905 will provide District of Columbia residents a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. It will also grant a vote to the next State in line to get a congressional seat, which, according to the 2000 Census, is Utah. As a result, this bill will permanently expand the size of the House of Representatives from 435 to 437. This bipartisan legislation also includes a "non-severability clause" providing that if a court determines that one section of this bill is invalid, then all other sections will be unenforceable.

Ensuring that all citizens, including District of Columbia residents, have representation in the House is not only fair and just, but also critical to maintaining a strong democracy, in which all citizens' voices are heard. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. MINNIE
MOORE-JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the actions of Minnie Moore-Johnson. Minnie has spent her life in the service of others and has dedicated herself to those who are in need of her help as the Founder and CEO of Concerned Parents, Inc. Over the course of her distinguished career of over 40 years, Minnie Moore-Johnson has received hundreds of awards recognizing her life achievements and therefore, I ask the United States Congress to do the same for this great woman.

Ms. Minnie Moore-Johnson has truly been a guardian over those in need within the city

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and surrounding areas. No matter what the need or want, it seems that Ms. Moore-Johnson is willing to do whatever necessary to help those around her. Her Thanksgiving Dinners for seniors became legendary in 1968 and in 1988 was recognized by the Smithsonian Institute for serving over 25,000 seniors. She has welcomed her home to anyone looking to benefit from her wisdom and generosity which she gladly gives to all.

For 10 years, the Pennsylvania Prison Society used the services of her organization, Concerned Parents, Inc., to provide community service opportunities to the Prison Society's clients. This prompted Minnie to return to school to better understand the criminal justice system and the struggles of the people she was helping. Once at Temple, she became a Life Skills Educator and eventually a Job Developer at the Pennsylvania Prison Society to help find employment and other benefits for ex-offenders. Her knowledge and ingenuity has truly benefited all in the Philadelphia community. Her work on the Pennsylvania Prison Society's Re-Entry Service Project created the only certified Job Development course at Temple University offering training in a variety of ex-offender programs. In addition to this program, Minnie provides services to troubled youth ages 15–24 through the Philadelphia Safe and Sound Youth Violence Reduction. All of this accomplishment has amounted to a life well spent in the service of others and gives people a true role model to look up to.

Minnie believes her journey has come full circle, in that it has afforded her the experience of expanding her knowledge to better understand the criminal justice system and those re-entering the work force and has given her the skills she needs to return to her first love, that of servicing the people of the SouthWest Philadelphia community—as Executive Director/CEO of Concerned Parents, Inc. I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Minnie Moore-Johnson in her lifetime of achievement in the service of others.

COMMENDING PATRICIA M.
ANDERSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Patricia M. Anderson for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Patricia is a student at Liberty Christian School in Argyle, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Patricia. I would also like to recognize her parents and

the faculty of Liberty Christian for their outstanding commitment to Patricia's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING BIRMINGHAM
NEWS REPORTER BRETT
BLACKLEDGE FOR WINNING THE
PULITZER PRIZE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor Brett Blackledge, a Birmingham News reporter, for receiving the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor in American journalism.

A native of Baton Rouge, Brett earned a journalism degree from Louisiana State University in 1986. Brett's prestigious career began in New Orleans with the Associated Press. From there, he went to work for the AP bureaus in Jackson, MS, and Tulsa, OK. He also wrote for the The Journal Newspapers and Education Daily.

In 1993, Brett moved to Mobile, AL, and for the next 5 years, he was a reporter at the Press-Register, where he covered local schools, government, and politics. Since 1998, he has been a general assignment and special projects reporter with the Birmingham News. Brett's 14-month series into Alabama's 2-year college system won him the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.

Madam Speaker, Brett Blackledge's career has already been filled with much achievement, and I rise today to honor yet another of these achievements—the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. May he continue to inform and inspire the people of Alabama. I know his colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO TRIAD MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Triad Middle School in St. Jacob, Illinois, upon being selected as one of the Illinois Horizon Schools: Schools to Watch by the Association of Middle-Level School.

For recognition in the Horizon Schools program, schools must meet or exceed 37 different criteria developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Triad Middle School had to complete both an application process and host on-site visits.

This award speaks to the dedication of the students and teachers at Triad Middle School. As a former teacher, I know how hard each educator works to help the students in their classroom succeed. This is a testament to not only the teachers' work, but also the students desire to learn and succeed.

I am pleased to congratulate Triad Middle School on this outstanding accomplishment. I

extend my best wishes for continued success to the students and faculty at Triad Middle School.

COMMENDING NATHAN S. ABELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Nathan S. Abell for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Nathan is a student at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Nathan. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Marcus High School for their outstanding commitment to Nathan's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

SHAREHOLDER VOTE ON
EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, and I commend Chairman FRANK for his work on this critical issue.

While American families struggle to meet their basic needs, such as access to affordable housing, health care, and education, the CEOs of top companies earn more than 430 times the pay of an average worker. The disparity between CEO compensation and minimum wage earnings is even more severe. The average CEO earns more before lunch than a minimum wage worker earns in a year. This inequality needs to be addressed. The Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act is an important step toward fairness because it empowers shareholders and holds public corporations accountable for their compensation practices.

H.R. 1257 requires that public companies give shareholders the opportunity to have a nonbinding advisory vote on the company's executive compensation. It also gives shareholders an additional nonbinding vote if the company awards the CEO a new, undisclosed personal exit package, also known as a "golden parachute" package, during negotiations to buy or sell a company. This bill does not in

any way cap executive salaries nor does it diminish the board's legal authority. It simply provides shareholders with a mechanism to voice their support or opposition to an executive compensation package.

This legislation is supported by the International Corporate Governance Network, the Council of Institutional Investors, labor unions, and shareholder organizations. Further, this approach to corporate governance is not new, and it has been shown that it works. The non-binding advisory vote has been successfully implemented in the United Kingdom and more recently in Australia. It was also adopted voluntarily by the insurance company, Aflac, and 52 other companies have similar proposals pending.

Mr. Chairman, American families cannot afford to continue subsidizing excessive CEO compensation packages. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1257.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREL HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS IN HONOR OF THEIR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the young women of Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad and their coach Liz Dunham. The young ladies of this squad have accomplished so much not just over the squad school year but over the proceeding years. These accomplished young women have done more for the community of Uniontown, Pennsylvania than they may realize.

While not only cheering at 98 games over the past year, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands have accomplished so much more. These young ladies have participated and volunteered their time in numerous community activities. They have raised funds and awareness for organizations and charities that include the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Bosom Buddies. The cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have also collected for food banks and helped with the benefit dance for Interfaith Caregivers of Fayette, Inc.

Along with their community involvement, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have participated and won many titles and the respect of many within the sport. Including, back to back Bituminous Coal Show "Varsity Over All High Point" titles, along with JV winning their division, and the 2007 WPXI "Cheer of the Year" Contest. The involvement and dedication of these young women could end today and I still would not have enough time to stress the accomplishments of this squad both past and present.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending the athletes of the Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Their presence has been felt not only throughout the school but throughout the community as well. Best wishes to all of these young ladies in their future endeavors and may the memories this illustrious year last them a lifetime.

COMMENDING KRISTOFER K. BJERGA
BJERGA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kristofer K. Bjerga for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kristofer is a student at Keller High School in Keller, Texas.

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I wish to offer my congratulations to Kristofer. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Keller High School for their outstanding commitment to Kristofer's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING MONROEVILLE, ALABAMA NATIVE CYNTHIA TUCKER FOR WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor Cynthia Tucker, a beloved native of Monroeville, Alabama, for receiving the highest honor in American journalism, the Pulitzer Prize.

Raised in Monroeville, where her father was a school principal, Cynthia went to Auburn University, graduating in 1976 with a degree in journalism. She joined the Atlanta Journal-Constitution staff in 1976 and also worked a short while at The Philadelphia Inquirer. As a reporter, she covered local government, national politics, crime and education, in addition to filing dispatches from Africa, Central America, and Cuba.

Over 30 years have passed since Cynthia first joined the Journal-Constitution. She has risen to editorial page editor, and her syndicated column now appears in more than 70 newspapers throughout the United States.

The third time proved to be the charm for Cynthia, who was also a Pulitzer finalist in 2004 and 2006. This year the journalism department at the University of Alabama, my alma mater, also recognized her long, distinguished writing career by awarding her the 2007 Clarence Cason Writing Award. Last year, Cynthia was named the National Association of Black Journalists' Journalist of the Year. In 2000, the American Society of Newspaper Editors honored her with the Distin-

guished Writing Award for commentary, and she has won the Cox Newspaper award for column writing four times.

Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote, and Mark Childress firmly established Monroeville as the "Literary Capital of Alabama." Cynthia Tucker's name is now very much a part of this prestigious list.

Madam Speaker, Cynthia Tucker has been an inspiration to countless young women—and men—from Alabama and across the country for her distinguished career. I know her colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE KENNETH MICHAEL KAYS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Kenneth Michael Kays. Mr. Kays, a native of Fairfield, Illinois was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. A monument in his memory is being dedicated on May 5, 2007 in Fairfield, Illinois.

Mr. Kays, a Private First Class in the United States Army, was cited for his heroic action in Thua Thien province, Republic of Vietnam, on May 7, 1970. His rank at that time was Private and he was serving as a medical airman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne Division near the Fire Support Base Maureen.

When enemy forces assaulted Company D's night defensive position, Private Kays began assisting his fallen and injured comrades. In assisting his fellow soldiers, he became a target and enemy fire and explosive charges severed the lower portion of his left leg. Private Kays applied a tourniquet to his leg and continued to search the perimeter and help his fellow soldiers who were injured. Private Kays did not allow himself to be treated until his fellow soldiers had been treated for their own wounds. He was cited with the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism.

My thoughts and prayers will be with the family and friends of Private First Class Kays as the monument is dedicated in his honor. May God bless his memory and may He continue to bless America.

COMMENDING GABRIEL J. DIAZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Gabriel J. Diaz for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Gabriel is a student at Ryan High School in Denton, TX.

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scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Gabriel. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Ryan High School for their outstanding commitment to Gabriel's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT MARSHA A. ROWE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Senior Master Sergeant Marsha A. Rowe, who retired March 9, 2007 from the 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard in Syracuse, New York after having served over 31 years of dedicated service in the United States Armed Forces. Her last duty position was Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of Plans, Scheduling, and Documentation in the 174th Fighter Wing Maintenance Operations Flight.

A native of Central New York, Sergeant Rowe's long and distinguished career in the United States Armed Forces began in January of 1976 when she enlisted in the New York Air National Guard. As a recent graduate of Indiana University, Sergeant Rowe was recruited for officer training but chose to join the enlisted ranks so she could work on the aircraft. All maintenance fields were combat positions and at that time not open to females, but Sergeant Rowe persisted and a waiver from National Guard Bureau allowed her to become a member of the 174th Maintenance Squadron Armament Section, working on gun and release systems and loading weapons on the A-37B Fighter Aircraft. Sergeant Rowe was named to the Load Standardization Crew, responsible for training all load crews, and earned the Maintenance Person of the Quarter Award. Soon after, Sergeant Rowe became the first female Recruiter in the 174th Fighter Wing. After her recruiting tour, Sergeant Rowe held numerous positions in the 174th Fighter Wing including Missile Shop Chief, Avionics Technician, Precision Measurement Equipment Lab Chief, Engine Manager, and Production Controller. In addition to the A-37B Dragonfly, she has worked on the A-10 Thunderbolt and the F-16 Falcon. Sergeant Rowe served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, where she maintained the Electronics Counter Measure system on the F-16 Aircraft. Upon her return, she was chosen to carry the NY State Flag in both the Washington, DC and New York City Victory Celebration Parades.

In addition to her full-time position, Sergeant Rowe has served as the Program Manager for the Base Security Augmentee Program for the past 13 years. She was a member of the Base Honor/Color Guard from 1976-1998, a member of the Base Pistol Team, served on the Board of Directors for the All Services Club, and was instrumental in organizing the trip to Washington, DC for the dedication of the

Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. An animal advocate, Sergeant Rowe is involved in several organizations, and will be dedicating her retirement years to their causes.

Sergeant Rowe's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters; and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster. Her military unit awards include the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat 'V' device and four oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. She also holds the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with nine oak leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars; and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Other service awards include the Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device, Mobilization "M" device, and Numeral 2; the USAF NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Her Foreign Service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Government of Kuwait. She is also the recipient of the N.Y. State Commendation Medal.

Sergeant Rowe is a very special person. She willingly served her Nation in time of war, and in time of peace, exuding integrity, loyalty and pride. For her unrelenting service to her country, Sergeant Rowe can retire knowing she has earned such a status. I wish her well in retirement and thank her for her years of hard work and dedication.

AWARDING OF CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen on March 29, 2007.

The Tuskegee Airmen were welcomed into the Capitol Rotunda to an excited and proud crowd of more than 700 people including family members, friends, press organizations, members of Congress, Colin Powell, and President Bush. As they came in walking and some being escorted in wheelchairs, I could clearly see the happiness on their faces. This was a day they had been anxiously waiting and living for. Finally, they received the honor and recognition that was so long over due. I was overwhelmed with joy and excited to see those in attendance.

Never in the history of Congress has such a large group been awarded a Congressional Gold Medal and I'm extremely proud to have been a part of this historical ceremony. I was overwhelmed with joy to see the excitement of the Tuskegee Airmen and their guests. The Rotunda was absolutely filled to capacity. This clearly demonstrates the value and appreciation people have for the contribution and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Their outstanding service during World War II was legendary. They fought the enemy abroad and racism at home. Despite being discriminated against, they rose to the challenge and broke down racial barriers in the United States Armed Forces. I'm forever grateful for their courage, bravery, and leadership.

I extend special thanks to Senator LEVIN for his leadership. I also extend thanks to you, Speaker PELOSI, Colin Powell, the United States Mint, and the Smithsonian Institution. My heart was warmed by the salute to the Tuskegee Airmen by President Bush. The entire ceremony was a memorable event and I will never forget it.

COMMENDING VATSALA GOYAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Vatsala Goyal for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Vatsala is a student at Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Vatsala. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Dunbar High School for their outstanding commitment to Vatsala's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

SUBPRIME LENDING

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks. As the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I consider helping ensure equal access to homeownership for all Americans a high priority of mine.

Therefore, I've grown increasingly concerned over the past several years about the disproportionate amount of higher priced subprime lending that is concentrated in the minority population and in minority neighborhoods. According to the 2005 HMDA data, 52% of African Americans and 40% Latino are in high-cost, subprime loans as compared to 19% of white families. I wonder whether some or most of these families could have qualified for a better, more affordable loan but were instead steered into a subprime loan by a lender or broker eager to make a profit.

To be fair, not all brokers and lenders are bad and even subprime lending has value for some borrowers. The House Financial Services Committee has held two hearings this year on the issue of predatory lending and we are currently assessing legislative solutions.

The research shows that while hybrid adjustable rate mortgages and other subprime loans may be appropriate for some families, they are not suitable for others. We're concerned that the lending abuse in the market has become a very serious problem.

The subprime market has seen significantly higher levels of foreclosure and default than the prime market, and the rates of foreclosure and default are rising. For Hispanics, almost 20 percent who received high-interest, subprime loans are likely to go into foreclosure. Specifically, 73,000 out of 375,000 subprime loans made to Hispanics in 2005 are likely to foreclose. And the Center for Responsible Lending predicts subprime mortgages originated from 1998 through third quarter of 2006 will wipe out \$164 billion in homeowner wealth for 2.2 million American families.

In my district in California, the Neighborhood Housing Services of the Inland Empire reports that the foreclosure rate is now 3 times higher than it was just 1 year ago. Now 1 of every 315 homes in the Inland Empire is currently in default and has started the foreclosure process.

By no means am I advocating that we get rid of subprime lending. Subprime lending has empowered a number of borrowers to get into their first home, including roughly 85% of Latino families. So we can't let perfection be the enemy of the good.

But we need better safeguards to protect subprime borrowers so they are not taken advantage of and receive loans they can afford, even after the teaser rates go up. We also need to put an end to abusive practices and overly relaxed lending standards. Lenders and brokers must price borrowers into homes according to the final, fully indexed rate and fully amortized repayment schedule; not just the teaser rate. And they need to explain the terms of these loans in plain English so that borrowers understand how much they are paying each month even after the rates adjust. Lenders should also explain the risks involved with payment shock and prepayment penalties. It's time we put unscrupulous lenders who are steering minority families into unsuitable loans out of business.

Over the past 10 years, minority homeownership rates have improved, and in some cases for Hispanics, the homeownership has grown at a rate three times higher than that of other nonHispanic groups. The growth of the subprime lending has contributed greatly to this achievement.

But no one gains when people are thrown out of their homes. The housing market falls and entire neighborhoods are affected. This in turn impacts local economies and will ultimately impact our national housing market.

We all know that homeownership is the key to the American dream and the means to household wealth and savings. Let's work to protect these hard-working families who are facing foreclosures and keep them in their homes.

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. No one can accuse me of shying away from a fight to defend America's rights, including the right to regulate foreign trash that poses legitimate health or safety risks for our citizens. Yet there are right ways to address trade issues and wrong ways. This bill represents the wrong way. The bottom line is that this bill allows States to ban or restrict trash imports in violation of our Congressional prerogatives, Federalist system, and international commitments.

Yesterday, the U.S. Trade Representative's Office sent a letter to the Speaker and Republican Leadership expressing concerns that this bill would enable States to openly violate our international trade obligations—trade rules that we depend on to defend our companies and workers from unfair foreign practices. I would ask that this letter be included in the RECORD.

At a time when this Congress has called again and again for nations such as China to adhere to trade rules and for these rules to be vigorously enforced, how can we reasonably expect our trading partners to comply with trade obligations with which we do not comply ourselves?

Moreover, this bill is targeted at Canada, our largest trading partner, whose imports of American products impact virtually every corner of our country. Violations of our trade obligations to Canada would allow Canada to choose which products and industries to target for retaliation—exposing virtually every Congressman and Congresswoman here to damaging sanctions against their districts.

This bill would send us back to the Articles of Confederation, under which States setting their own trade policies almost tore our Nation apart. Now, more than 200 years later, we would be abdicating our Congressional responsibility and setting a very dangerous precedent.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Rural Broadband Improvement Act. This bill would refocus the Rural Utility Service (RUS) Broadband Loan Program to bring high speed internet access to rural Americans.

Access to broadband service is critical to the quality of life in rural America. It has the potential to be an unprecedented catalyst for economic growth and improvements in education and health care. However, I am concerned that instead of benefiting the rural Americans who need it, RUS is too often

being used to subsidize Internet access to suburban and affluent communities that already have multiple high speed internet providers.

According to a USDA Office of Inspector General September 2005 Audit Report on the Rural Utility Service Broadband Grant and Loan Program, "RUS has not exclusively served those rural communities most requiring federal assistance to obtain access to broadband technologies. Because RUS's definition of 'rural area' is too broad to distinguish usefully between suburban and rural communities, the agency has issued over \$103.4 million in grants and loans (nearly 12 percent of \$895 million in total program funds) to communities near metropolitan areas." The audit report also found that RUS needs stronger controls to prioritize communities without broadband access.

I have introduced the "Rural Broadband Improvement Act" to refocus and improve this important program. My legislation would make three simple reforms:

1. It would ensure that RUS loans and guarantees go to truly rural communities;
2. In rural communities that already have some high speed internet service, my bill would ensure that Federal dollars benefit those residents who have no broadband;
3. It would ensure that projects that were intended to be built with federal dollars, but were not built within three years of being granted the loan, are paid back to the U.S. Treasury.

The Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture issued a report criticizing this program. In the President's Budget, the Administration recognized that the program needs to be retargeted to rural Americans who need it. But after five years since this program's inception, precious dollars that could be used to bring high speed internet access to rural homes and schoolhouses across America continue to be misspent.

Now it is time for Congress to act. Please join me to help enable rural Americans to enjoy the same high speed access to the internet that urban and suburban America enjoys.

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor, I rise today in support of H.R. 518, The international Solid Waste Importation and Management Act, or what is commonly referred to as the Canadian Trash bill.

Last Congress, identical legislation (H.R. 2491) was unanimously approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee and the full U.S. House of Representatives.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked with Mr. DINGELL and other members to address the Canadian trash problem. After 14 years of work, I look forward to resolving this issue.

Over 400 trucks a day cross the border from Canada, bringing tons of trash into Michigan

and other states. The unregulated flow of trash from Canada into Michigan and other states creates significant environment and public health concerns.

Even more alarming; a January 2006 audit conducted by the Department of Homeland Security has shown that these trucks are often found containing medical waste, illegal drugs, and illegal currency.

This report raises significant border security and national safety concerns that must be addressed.

This legislation would give residents of Michigan and other states the power to limit the trash from outside the United States they are currently forced to accept.

I look forward to continuing to work with supporters on both sides of the aisle to move this legislation to the President's desk.

Given the environmental, public health, border security, and national safety concerns, it is especially important that we act immediately to control the flow of trash from Canada.

I'd like to thank Chairman DINGELL for his leadership on this issue, and I encourage my colleagues to support this long overdue legislation.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH PETERS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Keith Peters, who is retiring from his position as president and CEO of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce. Keith has dedicated himself to bettering the Ypsilanti community for over 40 years.

Keith Peters was born in Grabill, Indiana, in 1941 and moved to Michigan for college in 1960. In 1964, he graduated from Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing and married Betty Jackson, his wife of 43 years. Keith honorably served the citizens of Ypsilanti from 1963 to 1983 as senior minister at First Christian Church in Ypsilanti.

After 20 years at First Christian, Keith changed directions and held a variety of positions within Ypsilanti's business community. In 1983, he served as production controller at Barfield Manufacturing in Ypsilanti. In 1989, Keith became sales manager at WAAM Radio in Ann Arbor.

Keith began his career at the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce in 1995 as membership director and small business advisor. After just 2 short years of hard work, a strong record of success, and proven dedication to the Ypsilanti business community, Keith became president and CEO of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce. Keith's leadership at the Ypsilanti Chamber has yielded great results, such as the doubling of both its membership and budget, as well as the creation of the Ypsilanti Area Chamber Education Foundation in 2000.

Keith has also given of himself to the broader Ypsilanti community, serving on such boards as the Workforce Development Board; the Washtenaw Development Council Board; the Board of Elders of the Memorial Church of Christ; the Advisory Board of the Eastern Michigan University College of Education; the Michigan Chamber of Commerce Executives Board, to name a few.

Keith Peters has done tremendous work for his community. I am sure that his wife Betty, his two children, and his eight grandchildren are all very proud of him. Keith has provided spiritual, economic and educational wisdom and much of his time to the Ypsilanti area and I am proud to call him a friend: I wish him an adventurous and healthful retirement and am certain he will have great success in all of his future endeavors, both personal and professional.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF ERNEST GALLO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as we mark the passing of a man that meant a great deal to the State of California and our Nation as a whole. Armed with nothing more than a \$5,900 investment and a winemaking pamphlet from the public library, Ernest Gallo—along with his brother, Julio—created one of the world's largest wineries out of a small family-owned business, employed thousands of hard-working Americans over the years, and revolutionized the way the wine industry operates in the United States.

And while his role as co-founder of the Gallo Winery may be his claim to fame, Ernest Gallo was also a generous philanthropist who willingly answered the call when his community needed him most. Ernest created an endowment at the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, CA. He established the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco. And those are just two examples of his strong support for educational and health-related endeavors the world over.

Ernest Gallo was the personification of the American Dream—a self-made man who transformed his personal business successes into tangible public benefits that enhanced the lives of countless Americans. And I would like to extend my most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ernest Gallo as we mourn his loss.

SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RE- SEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 363) to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 362, the "10,000 Teachers, Ten Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act, and H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act.

For the past century or more, the United States has been the undisputed leader of the global economy. The reasons for this success are many and diverse, but they are united by the principle of innovation that has guided our economy for decades. The United States is the birthplace of aviation and the automobile. We have led the information technology revolution and created the internet. The names of American pioneers are as familiar to us as those of our greatest Presidents: Henry Ford, Robert Oppenheimer, Bill Gates.

But today, the supremacy of the United States in international innovation is at risk. In 2005, the National Academies convened a panel, known as the Augustine Commission, made up of some of the most distinguished national leaders in academia, industry and government. Their report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, was startling. It expressed serious concern that "the scientific and technological building blocks critical to our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength." In order to prevent this erosion and maintain the United States' place at the forefront of the global economy, the Commission proposed several concrete actions.

The "10,000 Teacher, Ten Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act is the direct result of the Augustine Commission's first recommendation. In 2000, more than 85 percent of students in grades 5–9 were taught physical science by a teacher lacking a major or certification in the physical sciences. In 1999, 68 percent of U.S. 8th grade students received instruction from a mathematics teacher who did not hold a degree or certification in mathematics. This legislation will create thousands of new math and science teachers, each with expertise in their specific area of teaching, and will create centers for improvement of undergraduate education in science and mathematics.

The "Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act" derives from the Augustine Commission's second recommendation. This legislation will improve innovation efforts at the National Science Foundation. It will especially focus on outstanding researchers in the early stages of their careers. These are the researchers who are most likely to break existing paradigms and realize that singular achievement that will keep the United States at the cutting edge of global innovation.

These bills are only the first step. In the weeks and months to come, the House will consider several bills that will encourage technological progress and innovation. I commend Speaker PELOSI for her initiative and commitment to the innovation agenda, and I urge passage of these bills.

RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP BY COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE DALLES- WASCO COUNTY COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw your and my fellow colleagues' attention to a tremendous and especially unique educational effort underway at

Columbia Gorge Community College in Wasco and Hood River counties, Oregon and to single out the highly effective leadership of The Dalles-Wasco County Community Outreach Team.

This gorgeous area of Oregon benefits from some of the most dedicated and determined local leaders in the country. The Dalles-Wasco County Community Outreach Team provides an outstanding model of local government cooperation and their efforts, in conjunction with Columbia Gorge Community College, have had a very positive impact on the Columbia River Gorge economy. The Community Outreach Team's members band together at all levels of city and county leadership and work in synchronized fashion to both tout the benefits provided in their region and echo with one clear voice the ways government at all levels can better work together and deliver favorable results to local residents and employers and the large number of visitors who flock to this picturesque area.

The rural nursing program at Columbia Gorge Community College is hailed as a state and national model of instruction delivery in a rural region and has added to the College's clout as a premier center of learning and training in the West. Another feather in the cap of Columbia Gorge Community College is their renewable energy training program. The Pacific Northwest is witnessing unprecedented, rapid growth of renewable energy and Columbia Gorge Community College, in cooperation with its renewable energy industry and workforce partners, has initiated and deployed the first renewable energy program on the West Coast that offers wind energy technician training. As the co-chair of the bipartisan House Renewable Energy Caucus, I'm very proud of the College's national leadership on this front.

The renewable energy program at Columbia Gorge Community College will be sustained through the same highly successful industry partnership model as developed by the College's nursing program. The development of renewable energy contributes to our Nation's security by lessening reliance on imported fossil fuels, and its development substantially reduces the impact of fossil fuels on the important issue of climate change. Workforce training is an essential element of renewable energy expansion, and Columbia Gorge Community College is blazing trails on this exciting new front.

My colleagues, I ask you to join me in commending Columbia Gorge Community College and its industry and workforce partners for establishing the first program on the West Coast for renewable energy that offers wind energy technician training. They're providing outstanding results, and it's my honor to represent in the United States House of Representatives such dedicated local leaders.

HONORING NED BAUDAT FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE P.E. MARION SCIENCE/MATH SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Ned

Baudat for his contributions to the P.E. Marion Science/Math Scholarship that is offered to students at Aldine High School in our district. With Mr. Baudat's support, students from Aldine High School have the opportunity to further their collegiate studies in math and science. I know P.E. Marion and his excellent teaching ability, and it is an additional honor to have this scholarship in his name.

Our Nation is currently facing criticism relating to a decreased interest of American students in the study of math and science. For this reason, we are unable to keep up with the international community whose students often excel in their math and science studies. By encouraging advanced study in these subjects, American students are able to better compete with students from all over the world, and we have persons like Ned Baudat to thank for this.

Mr. Baudat graduated at the top of his class from Aldine High School and went on to Rice University. During his career in the oil industry, he developed a patent regarding an improved method to convert liquid natural gas back into its original gaseous state. A portion of the proceeds from Mr. Baudat's patent were used to develop this scholarship.

I am very proud of his outstanding accomplishments as well as his continued support of the P.E. Marion Science/Math Scholarship. For his service to my constituents as well as the country, I offer Mr. Baudat my most sincere congratulations in his well deserved recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 24, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 252. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM FROM MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCES AND WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (WPI)

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the FIRST Robotics team from the Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Sciences at WPI for their recent championship victory at the FIRST Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The team earned an invitation to this competition after months of demonstrated excellence in competitive play, sportsmanship, and development of partnerships among schools, businesses, and communities.

The diligent efforts of these students over the course of 6 weeks enabled them to channel their energy and creativity into the construction of robots while adhering to competition guidelines and design specifications. This final effort was the culmination of months of

competitive innovation among over 1,300 teams from across the United States and six other countries. The team was recognized earlier this year with the prestigious Regional Chairman's Award at the FIRST BAE Systems/Granite State Regional in Manchester, New Hampshire, making it the first team in the competition's history to win the award for the second consecutive year. The team has also been recognized with the Tournament Champion's Award and the Motorola Quality Award at the Silicon Valley Regional Robotics Tournament in San Jose, California.

FIRST is a not-for-profit whose acronym means "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," that was founded by Dean Kamen, a WPI alumnus. The organization provides programs to motivate youth to pursue opportunities in math, science, technology, and engineering, while also building practical life skills.

The FIRST Robotics Team from Massachusetts Academy of Math and Sciences at WPI works diligently in the pursuit of knowledge and innovation as they apply it to technology. The team's accomplishments this year illustrate their tremendous hard work, determination, and creativity. These achievements make them role models to their fellow youth and assets to the community at large. I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating the team on their extraordinary achievement.

TRIBUTE TO 2007 INDUCTEES TO THE MEDFORD SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 10 talented men and women being inducted into the Medford Sports Hall of Fame on April 28, 2007, at the Skyline Plaza in Medford, OR. The Medford Sports Hall of Fame was established to ensure that local athletes, coaches, and contributors would be rightfully recognized for their significant support of athletics in southern Oregon both on and off the field. Today, I would like to share some of the stories that depict the inductees' illustrious athletic achievements.

Larry Binney has spent over 40 years coaching and teaching students the fundamentals of softball, the importance of good sportsmanship, and the values of teamwork. In his last 20 seasons as the head coach of the North Medford Black Tornado, he produced 16 conference championships and 4 State championships. In 1998, he was named the "National High School Coach of the Year." Mr. Binney concluded his distinguished coaching career at Southern Oregon University in 2006.

Dick Entinger's appreciation for sports began at an early age and his enthusiasm for promoting athletics continued as he moved to the community of Medford in 1976. As a two-time president of the Medford Linebackers, Mr. Entinger played a key role in raising money to support numerous community athletic programs and projects. Perhaps two of his most recognizable contributions include his role in raising \$700,000 to install FieldTurf and a new track at the Spiegelberg Stadium and another \$800,000 to open the stadium to local soccer,

band, and Pop Warner football teams. Today, many are able to participate in sports and utilize the fields, tracks, and stadiums that stand as a result of Mr. Entinger's hard work and commitment to the sporting community.

BG Gould has served as the team statistician for Medford area high school baseball, basketball, football, and softball teams since 1967. The 1970 Medford High School graduate spent 13 years as an official scorer for the Oakland A's minor league team, the Southern Oregon Timberjacks. BG also worked as an umpire in the Rogue Valley for over 35 years. Today, he continues to put his statistical and historical knowledge to work as the sports information director for School District 549-C in Medford.

Whitney Grant, a Klamath Falls native, started 4 years as a point guard on the University of Portland women's basketball team. By the time her collegiate career with the Pilots ended, Whitney ranked second in three-point baskets, seventh in assists, and twelfth in points scored on the team's all-time leaders list. Whitney was also a tremendous all-season athlete at South Medford High School, where she excelled in track, soccer, and volleyball. Whitney is currently working in Portland, OR, for Adidas.

Angie Jacobs, a Medford native and a graduate of Medford Senior High School, led Medford to their first State softball championship in 1984 as an all-state catcher. On scholarship at the University of California, Berkeley, she helped lead the softball team to a third-place finish in the 1986 NCAA tournament. As a senior, Angie was selected to the All Pac-10 team, a remarkable feat considering 6 months prior she had her right thumb reattached following an accident. Jacobs is a two-time Amateur Softball Association All-American and currently is finishing her first season as the head softball coach at the University of Utah.

Dr. Robert McIntyre is well known in Medford for his contributions to the medical community, where he has practiced medicine for 28 years. Others in the region know him for his flashing speed, State titles, and the track scholarship that led him to Stanford University. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. McIntyre was the State titleholder in the 440-yard dash with a time of 49.2 seconds. At Stanford, he ran a leg on Stanford's world record breaking 4 100 yard relay team, and his 1965 AAU All-American Team still holds the all-time Stanford relay record. Dr. McIntyre rounded out his athletic career participating in decathlons and twice finished as a national runner-up in his age group.

Dennis J. Murphy is one of the most successful coaches in South Medford High School history. He spent 19 years coaching the South Medford High School boys' basketball team, where he compiled 11 conference championships, four semifinal appearances, one state runner-up finish, and a state title. He has over 500 career victories since he started coaching in 1975. Dennis' ability to teach and coach spans further than just the hardwood. Prior to his time at South Medford High School, Dennis coached at St. Mary's as the offensive and defensive line coach where he guided St. Mary's to three state championships, and also won a title on the baseball diamond as the head coach in 1982.

Kevin Towers, a 1979 Medford High School graduate, became the Executive Vice President/General Manager of the San Diego Pa-

dres in 1995. His 27-year professional baseball career began when Towers was selected in the first round of the 1982 draft by the San Diego Padres. He pitched for the Padres' minor league teams until arm operations forced him to retire. Upon retirement, Kevin moved to the front office where he is the longest-tenured general manager in Padres history. Under his guidance, the Padres won the National League West titles in 1996, 1998, 2005, and 2006, and won the National League pennant in 1998.

Dr. Steven J. Wisely spent 18 years as the superintendent of the Medford School District. He also represented the region as the school district's athletic director from 1990 to 2003. Whether he was working with the local YMCA to ensure elementary sports were available to students or assisting in the development of soccer fields at North Medford High School, Dr. Wisely played a significant role in providing athletic opportunities for all youth in the community.

Robert "Bob" Wolcott, a North Medford High School graduate, made the jump from high school to pro baseball in 1992. Selected by the Seattle Mariners in the second round, he spent three years in the minors before advancing to the big leagues in 1995. Bob may be most notable for his winning decision in Game 1 of the 1995 American League Championship Series, where he led his Mariners to a 3-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians. He finished the 1995 season with a victory over Roger Clemens and twice as many victories as losses. He currently works as a contract engineer for Intel.

These highlights are just a few of the remarkable accomplishments made by these ten outstanding athletes and sports enthusiasts. However, they help illustrate the impact each has contributed to the community and the younger athletes that will follow in their footsteps.

My colleagues, please join me in congratulating the newest inductees into the Medford Sports Hall of Fame.

HONORING INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS MARILYN PINSKY AND KATHRYN RUSCITTO

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Marilyn Pinsky and Kathryn Ruscitto, recipients of the 2007 Interfaith Leadership Award from Interfaith Works, for their devotion to religion, distinction in career, and dedication to community.

Marilyn L. Pinsky served in Onondaga County government for 35 years, retiring in 2006 from the position of Commissioner of the Onondaga County Department of Aging and Youth. She is a graduate of Syracuse University, earning her Masters of Public Administration from the Maxwell School. She has been a prominent member of multiple community organizations, including the Community Foundation of Central New York, the Success by Six Policy Council, and the United Way. Her work in the community has benefited many and has distinguished her as a leader and an example for all of us.

Kathryn H. Ruscitto has served as Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning and Organization Development at St. Joseph's Hospital since 2001. She earned her Bachelor's in Political Science and Education at LeMoyne College, and her Masters in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. She has been involved with many community organizations and activities, including serving as a trustee for the Health Care Foundation of Western and Central New York, serving on the LeMoyne College Board of Regents, and as an Advisory Board member for Key Bank. Through her efforts on behalf of others, Mrs. Ruscitto has become a notable member of our community.

I am proud to use this opportunity to publicly recognize Mrs. Pinsky and Mrs. Ruscitto for their outstanding dedication and service, and for earning this much deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIAN HUVAR

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, 2007 marks Valerian Huvar's 52nd year of service as the county clerk for Victoria, Texas, making him the longest serving county clerk in Texas history. I am pleased to join the residents of Victoria in extending my thanks and congratulations to Mr. Huvar.

Mr. Huvar, the son of Fred and Stella Huvar, was born in El Campo, Texas on October 19, 1919. Mr. Huvar has resided in Victoria since he was 4 months old. A 1937 graduate of St. Joseph High School, Mr. Huvar worked for the local Goodyear Tire Store until December 30, 1941, when he entered the military. Mr. Huvar spent 5 years in the Army Air Corps Ordnance Department, earning the rank of Master Sergeant.

After his discharge from active duty, Mr. Huvar returned to the local Goodyear Tire Store, this time as the store's manager. Soon thereafter he went to work at the local Montgomery Ward where he set up their business office. In 1950, he went to work as a teller in the First Victoria National Bank.

In 1954, Mr. Huvar successfully ran for Victoria County Clerk. He was officially sworn in on January 1, 1955, and has held the position ever since.

Mr. Huvar married Luella Edwards of Blanco, Texas, on May 4, 1947. She passed away on January 7, 1984. Valerian and Luella have four children—Charlotte, Carolyn, Dennis, and Michael, 10 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, for over 5 decades the people of Victoria County have benefited from Mr. Valerian Huvar's dedication and professionalism. I am pleased to join my constituents and friends in Victoria in paying tribute to the accomplishments of this remarkable Texan.

HONORING DR. CHARLES DARLAND

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Charles Darland,

an exemplary individual and friend from my Congressional District, on the occasion of his 20 year anniversary as pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, KY.

Raised in West Palm Beach, FL, Dr. Darland first came to Kentucky in the mid 1970s to complete a Masters Degree of Divinity at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He later earned a Doctorate in Philosophy from the same institution. Dr. Darland's Christian mission first brought him to Grace Baptist Church in Independence, KY. In 1987, he was called to the Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Dr. Darland's wife, Suzanne, continues to play an important role in his ministry, sharing his passion for the Lord and dedication to his congregation. The couple has also been blessed with three fine sons: Jesse, Daniel, and Joel.

It is my great privilege to honor Dr. Charles Darland today before the entire House of Representatives for his dedicated service to the spiritual needs of members of the Baptist faith and the community at large. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING THE GUAM WOMEN'S CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Guam Women's Club (GWC) on the occasion of its 55th anniversary. The GWC was founded during a time of transition for Guam. In 1952, just 7 years after the end of World War II and 8 years after Guam's liberation, the people of Guam were emerging from the ravages of war and occupation. The women who founded the GWC that year were determined to contribute to the reconstruction of Guam and the promotion of the Chamorro culture. The GWC, since 1952, has established a successful record of helping to improve the health, welfare and education of the people of Guam.

Guam was attacked and occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army on December 7, 1941. The occupation lasted for 3 years and devastated our island. The battle to liberate Guam from Imperial Japanese Army occupation was a fierce but successful one. After the war, Guam was free again but the task of rebuilding was formidable. The vibrancy of our island's community today is a direct result of the commitment and hard work on the part of individuals and organizations dedicated to the reconstruction of Guam following the war. The GWC played an integral and commendable role in that effort.

In 1954, the GWC launched the effort to establish the Guam Museum of Culture, Art and History. The Guam Museum has thrived over the years, contributing greatly to the growth of understanding of Guam's history and appreciation of our island's diverse culture. I am confident that the GWC members who helped begin the Guam Museum some many years ago would share in our pride in that fact that, today, the Guam Museum is preparing for undergo a multi-million dollar construction and expansion project.

The GWC also has always made supporting education a high priority. Since its inception, the GWC has awarded high school, college, and university scholarships to deserving students. The GWC has also honored the teaching profession with annual "Teacher Appreciation" social events.

GWC members further have long been hospital volunteers and actively contribute their time, effort and money to support other local service organizations, such as the Alee Shelter, Erica's House, Child Care Co-op, the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association, St. Dominic's Nursing Facility and Rainbows for all Children, as well as national organizations, such as Crime Stoppers, the Salvation Army and the Guam chapters of the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society. The GWC also remains a loyal supporter and contributor to the Sugar Plum Tree, which provides holiday presents to needy children and senior citizens, and to the Air Force's annual Christmas Drop tradition, collecting, soliciting and preparing practical items, candy and toys to distribute by parachute to the sparsely populated outlying islands in Micronesia. Additionally, the Guam Women's Club is a long-time benefactor of the Guam Symphony Society and contributor to KGTF, Guam's public television station, and KPRG, the local public radio station.

Moreover, the commitment of the GWC to island beautification has resulted in the development of Government House's grounds and the establishment of Padre Palomo Park in Hagatna. Also notable is the effort on the part of the GWC to establish the Memorias Para I Lalahita Park, which was completed in 1972 and is probably the first memorial in our Nation to be dedicated to our men and women who fought and died in the Vietnam Conflict.

Madam Speaker, the Guam Women's Club is Guam's oldest women's organization. After 55 years, I am proud to say that it remains a vibrant part of our island's community. It has received numerous national and international awards and recognition for its many successful projects and its sustained allegiance to serving the Guam community. I am proud to have been a long-time member and I am honored to recognize the current membership's adherence to GWC's goals and objectives. The Guam Women's Club has made substantial contributions toward the transformation of Guam from war-torn island to 21st century community—the social, political and economic leader in the Western Pacific.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my profound sorrow over the sudden loss of my colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD who died of cancer on April 22, 2007. JUANITA was a trailblazer throughout her life and in the House of Rep-

resentatives, and it was an honor for me to serve alongside her.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, JUANITA was a former teacher in the Los Angeles public school system and served on the Carson City Council and in the California State Assembly before running for Congress in December 1995. Since then, she had been elected to Congress with an overwhelming amount of support from her constituents. The 37th district of California should be proud that they had such a strong and determined representative in JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

JUANITA spoke out against injustices both in our country, especially on voting rights and election reform, and abroad, including genocide in Cambodia and Darfur, women's rights and human trafficking. Her hard work and ability to lead earned JUANITA the Chairmanship of the Committee on House Administration for the 110th Congress. This appointment also represented another barrier she broke through: JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was the first African-American woman to chair a House committee.

Having faced many obstacles in my own life, I can truly appreciate the barriers that JUANITA knocked down in her lifetime. I know her memory will live on forever, as will the opportunities she helped create for those who follow in her footsteps.

JUANITA is survived by her husband, James McDonald, Jr.; five children; and five grandchildren. May we keep her loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB AND CAROLE DONALD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Bob and Carole Donald for their commitment to serving the community.

Bob and Carole are two individuals who truly exemplify community service and civic involvement. Since moving to Las Vegas, Bob and Carole have donated their time and energy to a variety of causes in our community. Whether it is helping a neighbor or volunteering in the community, Bob and Carole are always willing to lend a hand. Their commitment and service to others have had a positive impact on our community.

Bob has dedicated both his professional life and his personal life to serving others. He served his country in the U.S. Army before becoming a police officer with the Newark Police Department in New Jersey. During his 25 years with the Newark Police Department, Bob served on the foot patrol, the motorcycle unit, as a detective, the head of Narcotics, and as the head of the Tactical Force. As an officer, Bob always placed the safety of others before his own and protected the citizens of Newark with both honor and pride. The Newark Police Department honored Bob on a number of occasions for the leadership, commitment, and sacrifice he demonstrated as a police officer.

Bob retired as a Lieutenant from the Newark Police Department and later moved to Las Vegas. Throughout his years in Las Vegas,

Bob has been incredibly active in the community. When he is not volunteering, he spends his time either hunting or skeet shooting. He is co-founder of the Nellis Skeet Club and has won the Senior Skeet Shooting Championship of Nevada many times in the past several years.

Carole was a professional Flamenco dancer and traveled the world performing with legendary Flamenco dancer, Jose Greco. After retiring from dancing, she opened a hair salon in New Jersey and later opened another salon in Las Vegas. Carole has used her talents to help others. She has volunteered for a number of years at local hospitals, providing haircuts to patients who are too sick to leave the hospital. She is a very warm-hearted person who is not only willing to donate her time and her talents to help others, but actively seeks opportunities to do so.

Bob and Carole have been happily married for over 20 years. Bob has three children Bobby, Stephen, and Diane.

Bob and Carole Donald are outstanding examples of what it means to be community-minded. They are genuine, giving, and kind. They constantly look for ways to contribute to the world around them. Their optimism and enthusiasm for life has made a difference for all who have the privilege of knowing them.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Bob and Carole Donald for their tremendous commitment to the Las Vegas community and to the United States. I wish the Donalds the very best as they continue to set an example of service and civic involvement.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, the loss this week of our dear friend and colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a great blow to this institution and to the people of the California's 37th Congressional District.

I extend my sincere condolences to her family during this time of sorrow, and I hope that they find some comfort in knowing how deeply loved and respected Juanita was by her constituents and by her colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

We honor her life and her accomplishments this week. Motivated by love of country, community and family, and inspired by her struggles as an African American leader and as a woman, she advocated for the rights of minorities and women in this country and throughout the world.

JUANITA was no less dedicated to the more parochial needs of her constituents and Southern California in general. As the tributes from her Committee colleagues highlight, she was a respected and effective member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, securing billions of dollars for her region and her state of California.

She worked tirelessly to secure transportation infrastructure investments, enhancing

the economic security of the region and improving the quality of life for Los Angeles County residents. She will long be remembered by Angelenos for her leading role in making possible the construction of the historic Alameda Corridor.

She was also a woman of many firsts. In the California State Assembly, JUANITA became the first woman, in her first term, to chair the powerful Insurance and Revenue and Taxation Committees.

I know how proud she was to be the first African American woman to be named Honorary Curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach.

Most recently, JUANITA became the first African American woman to hold the distinguished position of Chair of the powerful House Administration Committee in this 110th Congress, overseeing the operations of the House of Representatives.

During her short term as Chair, her hiring and contracting practices within the House of Representatives reflected her deep commitment to diversity. She was a dedicated proponent of minority rights, and was the Founder and Executive Director of the League of African American Women, comprised of 40 African-American women's groups.

JUANITA was also the founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African-Americans between the ages of 18 and 35. She believed in embracing our youth and fought to give young people hope and opportunity for a better life. Juanita introduced legislation directing the Secretary of Education to study and report to Congress on the troubling dropout rate among Latino, Native American, American Samoan and African American high school students.

JUANITA will also be remembered as a strong advocate for human rights around the globe, speaking out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur and other regions of the world where she fought against injustice and inhumanity. She worked with former Secretary of State Madelene Albright and Ambassador John Miller to address human trafficking and in support of women's rights around the world.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a dynamic member of this House, who sought to maximize her influence to better the lives of her constituents, the residents of her county and State, and all people around the world in desperate need of assistance.

JUANITA was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. And she was a beloved colleague and friend who will truly be missed.

My husband Ed and I send our deep and sincere condolences to her husband, James, her five children and five grandchildren.

We will miss you JUANITA.

SUPPORTING NIH FUNDING FOR DYSTONIA RESEARCH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of NIH funding for research to better understand the causes and treatments for dystonia.

My longtime friend Howard Thiel visited last week to tell me more about the problem of

dystonia; Howard experienced severe pain and disability from this condition for nine years.

Although he is now benefiting from effective treatment, he helped me better understand the problems of the many Americans who suffer from conditions of abnormal muscle tone. In compelling terms, he described the pain, disability and suffering they experience. From spasmodic dystonia of the neck, to spasmodic dysphonia of the vocal cords, and generalized whole body dystonia, these various conditions all involve distressing, often exquisitely painful difficulties with muscle tone.

As Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has noted, "Dystonia is the third most common neurological movement disorder behind Parkinson's and Tremors." Hundreds of thousands of Americans suffer with this little known disorder. As we consider the difficult budget priorities confronting us in 2007, I ask you to give serious consideration to increased NIH support for research on neurological conditions like dystonia.

HONORING HARRY HAFT'S PLACE IN THE NATIONAL JEWISH SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Haft, a Holocaust survivor and inductee into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Born Hertzka Haft on July 28, 1925 in Poland, Harry Haft was only 16 when he was sent to the infamous concentration camp, Auschwitz. Here, the brave teenager was forced to fight other prisoners for the amusement of German SS guards. These perverse, bare-knuckled bouts were held while Mr. Haft routinely faced starvation, torture, and a culture of death.

However, Mr. Haft's determination and instincts kept him alive long enough to escape from the camp. After World War II ended, Mr. Haft married Miriam and traveled to America determined to find freedom. Here, he became a professional boxer, one who would battle elements of corruption and organized crime as he worked to establish himself as a professional athlete. His winning career would culminate in a bout against the future undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, Rocky Marciano. After his retirement from the ring, Mr. Haft had three children, Alan, Marty, and Helene, and today is a proud grandfather of six: Hartley, Jamie, Stephanie, Ethan, Melodie, and Jonathan,

This Sunday, April 29, 2007, Mr. Haft will take his place as a deserving member of the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Commack, New York. His story is one of perseverance and survival—of a man who escaped from unimaginable horror to find a new life and success at the top of his profession. I am proud to honor him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK
MARTIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Frank Martin and congratulate him on 30 years of exceptional success as the President and C.E.O. of Martin-Harris Construction.

Frank founded Martin-Harris Construction in 1976 with five associates and a vision. Over 30 years his vision has been realized many times over. Since its inception, Martin-Harris has been granted general contracting licenses in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Utah and currently has over 400 associates generating over \$340 million in 2006. Martin-Harris Construction has been recognized as an industry leader; their accolades include the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Inland Empire Region and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Community Achievement Award in Business. They have also been recognized by the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties as the Top Contracting firm in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007.

In addition to Frank's exceptional business success he has made a profound impact on the community through his involvement with numerous community organizations. Frank presently serves on the board of directors of U.S. Bank and Opportunity Village. He is a Life Time Board Member of the AGC, UNLV Foundation, and the CCSN Foundation Board. Frank and his wife, Bonnie, have also hosted the annual Miss Kitty's Jeans to Jewels fundraiser for Opportunity Village since 2001 at their Bitter Root Ranch.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Frank Martin. His successes in business and philanthropic pursuits are truly commendable and his dedication to community should serve as an example to us all. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
"MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT"

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, our Nation's healthcare system boasts many triumphs—and many failures. As a nation we spend more than \$1.9 trillion on health care, yet the number of those without insurance continues to grow. At last count, more than 46 million Americans under age 65 had no health insurance. This is an increase of 1.3 million people from the previous year, and continues this upward trend that began in 2000.

Those individuals who lack health insurance often forgo vital treatment and are left to depend upon a thinning safety net of healthcare providers. No health insurance often means filing medical bankruptcies or, worse yet, becoming one of the 18,000 premature American deaths each year that are attributable to lacking health insurance.

It is time to act. Today I am introducing "Medicare for All." It will make the tried, true,

and trusted Medicare program available to everyone under age 65. Citizens will also have the option of selecting from any of the health benefit plans available to Members of Congress, the President, and Federal employees. People with lower incomes will continue to receive extra help with cost-sharing and premiums in order to access Medicare services.

According to the Institute of Medicine, insuring all Americans would actually save the country \$380 billion a year, partly because we already pay for the health care of the uninsured, who wait until they are in crisis and often receive their care in emergency rooms. If comprehensive healthcare coverage is available to all Americans, better preventative services and earlier treatments will be received, lowering healthcare costs. All Americans will reap the economic benefits of a healthier nation, from a stronger economy to lower health insurance expenses.

This plan will save not only lives, but also American jobs. American companies are competing in the international marketplace against businesses that do not directly bear the costs of providing their employees and retirees with health care.

As a result of a slowing economy earlier in the decade and healthcare premiums increasing faster than wages and incomes, the number of people with employer-based health insurance coverage continues to decline. Approximately 12.4 million people lost their employer-based insurance between 2000 and 2005. Premiums for family coverage have increased by 87 percent since 2000. American companies are trying to do the right thing, but it is getting more difficult.

I urge my colleagues—both Democrats and Republicans—to support this bill, and join me in addressing the healthcare crisis faced by millions of Americans today.

JAMES L. WOOD—SOCIOLOGIST,
POLITICAL ACTIVIST

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, my friend and colleague, James L. Wood, died on Wednesday, April 18, following a brief bout with an aggressive cancer. Since his retirement from San Diego State University in May 2005, Jim and his wife Patsy lived in Berkeley. Jim was an inspirational teacher and reform activist. These passions animated him throughout his life, both in his family relations and in his engagement with the larger world.

Jim was born in Oakland, CA, in 1941. After graduating from the Oakland public schools, he enrolled in the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his Bachelor's degree and Ph.D. in sociology. As a student at Berkeley, Jim met his future wife Patsy. They studied at Berkeley in extraordinary times, when national and world affairs and their academic aspirations converged. Jim's first day of graduate school, October 1, 1964, marked the beginning of the Free Speech movement. Additionally, the Civil Rights movement and the anti-war movement's mobilization of students and broad segments of the general public against the U.S. involvement in war in Southeast Asia influenced Jim to study collective behavior and mass movements.

Upon completion of his doctoral studies at Berkeley, Jim moved to San Diego and joined the Sociology Department at San Diego State University (SDSU) in 1975. His scholarship and teaching focused on social movements and political sociology. He also taught courses on statistics and methodology. Jim assumed the duties of Department Chair, from 1991 to 2000. During these years at SDSU, Jim authored and co-authored many articles and books addressing civil rights, collective behavior and student activism, social movements, and sociological traditions.

When State budget allocations for the California State University system (CSU) declined, in the early 1990s, efforts of the SDSU leadership to restructure departments on that campus, including elimination of the Sociology Department, prompted Jim to focus intensively on the politics of higher education. As an activist and leader in the SDSU Chapter of the California Faculty Association, Jim was part of a faculty-student coalition that prompted the restoration of nine academic departments that had been slated for dismantling, and the withdrawal of termination notices for the numerous tenured faculty who would have been dismissed. For the CFA Chapter, Jim chaired the legislative committee. He also actively participated in other organizations, including the American Sociological Association. He was a member and elected officer of the American Association of University Professors. In 1996, he was a founding member and later became president of the San Diego-based Faculty Coalition for Public Higher Education, which supports funding stabilization for the State's public colleges and universities, the protection of tenure in the face of the expansion and exploitation of contingent faculty ranks, faculty control of technology in the classroom, and the exposure of corporate influence in higher education.

Following retirement, Jim and Patsy resettled in Berkeley. Jim continued to be active in sharing information and supporting the reforms for the community colleges and universities to which he had devoted so much energy over the years.

For colleagues and friends, the memory of Jim as a committed professor and activist will continue as an inspiration.

Jim is survived by his wife Patsy and daughter Ann, both of Berkeley, and son Jeff of Los Angeles.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at the Unity Church, 2075 Eunice Street, Berkeley, CA.

HONORING ROBERT D. FITZER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert D. Fitzer, a longtime clarinetist, music educator, and community activist in the Mahoning Valley.

Robert Fitzer was born in Youngstown, Ohio to former YSU Dana School of Music faculty members James Fitzer and Dolores Severino. By the time he was in 8th grade he was a member of the Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra. He studied clarinet at Northwestern University, where he was a member of their

Symphony Orchestra and their Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Robert studied at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria and in the International Festival Institute in Round Top, Texas. He has also received coaching in chamber music by Grammy-award winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

As a musician, Bob Fitzer has performed at Carnegie Hall, recorded Grammy Award winning music, and collaborated with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He has performed on motion picture soundtracks, Broadway shows on tour, and with rock bands such as Yes and Styx. He has performed with the United States Navy Band and the Blossom Festival Concert Band. Bob also served as soloist in 2004 with the Youngstown State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Bob Fitzer has been a faculty member at YSU's Dana School of Music for 11 years. He teaches a studio of 24 clarinet majors and has formed clarinet choirs, trios and quartets. He has also served on the faculties of Trinity University in San Antonio and Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. In addition, he also conducts classes at his private clarinet studio in Youngstown.

Bob Fitzer has also been involved in the community life of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. He has served as president of the Citizens League of Greater Youngstown and as a volunteer counselor at the Help Hotline Crisis Center. From 1995 to 2001 Bob Fitzer was co-host of WYSU's Commentary Café radio show. During that time I was granted the honor of being one of his guests.

Bob Fitzer spent a lifetime contributing to the art that this world so desperately needs. Currently, Bob Fitzer needs the comfort of that art and the friendship of his friends as he fights cancer. Bob, we wish you well and we pray for you and we hope you find the comfort and friendship that you have so freely provided for others throughout your life.

IN MEMORY OF MURRAY TOLER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Mr. Murray Toler of Malvern, Arkansas, who passed away April 14, 2007.

Murray Toler was a World War II veteran, devoted family man and a civic leader whose optimistic and determined outlook on life impacted all who knew him and called him a friend.

Murray Toler was born and raised in Leola and Sheridan, Arkansas, and upon graduating high school, he joined the United States Navy, where he served through World War II. Murray Toler spent a lifetime in the forestry and lumber business as the longtime partner and active manager at the H.G. Toler and Sons Lumber Company in Leola. He was a devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Malvern, where he actively served on numerous committees and boards throughout the years. Murray Toler also served on the board of directors of the Malvern National Bank for more than 40 years, an accomplishment that demonstrated his dedication and commitment to his community.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Ruby, of Malvern; his two daughters Nancy Toler Grigsby and Cindy Toler Hale; his son David Toler; and to his five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Murray Toler will be sorely missed by his family, his church and his community. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RETIRING CALVIN COLLEGE CHAPLAIN DALE COOPER

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Cooper, chaplain of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who will retire after 30 years of service at Calvin.

Chaplain Dale Cooper began his work at Calvin College in 1976. Three years later, he became chaplain, and has over the past three decades provided students, faculty, and staff at Calvin College with remarkable guidance. Chaplain Cooper's devotion to God and love for all people led him to become chaplain, and by all accounts, his career at Calvin can be regarded as wholly successful. In his time there, he has provided invaluable spiritual guidance to students, whether they had suffered a loss in the family or were struggling to cope with a rigorous class schedule. Through his counseling, preaching and other interactions with students and faculty, Chaplain Cooper embodied the creed of the Christian Reformed Church to incorporate faith and to honor God in every aspect of life, including work and study. Chaplain Cooper has helped see the Calvin College community through both good times and bad, and has left a lasting impact on everyone he has come into contact with.

One of Chaplain Cooper's most remarkable endeavors occurred when he drove his 1941 John Deere "B" tractor across the Midwest, from Calvin College all the way to Alton, Iowa. It was a spiritual journey for Chaplain Cooper; his father was a farmer and John Deere tractor enthusiast. He had to give up farming after his wife, Dale's mother, was paralyzed from the neck down by polio. The illness confined Dale Cooper's mother to an iron lung for 40 years of her life. Incredible spiritual journeys such as this are not uncommon for Chaplain Cooper.

Chaplain Cooper's effectiveness as a spiritual guide to students at Calvin College is validated by their affection for him. Known simply as "Coop" to most students, Cooper has a gift of immediately connecting with people. His friendliness, open door policy, and love for Calvin College and its students, faculty and staff have earned him a sterling reputation around campus, and in the greater community.

In addition to providing guidance, Chaplain Dale Cooper will leave behind a number of programs at Calvin College that reflect his dedication to the institution. Cooper worked to constantly reform the college to welcome people of all backgrounds and faith traditions.

For these and other acts of caring, compassion and dedication to Calvin College and the community it serves, we honor Dale Cooper in

his retirement. The impact he has had on people at Calvin cannot be measured by any tangible means. But ask anyone who has gotten to know him there, and it is evident that the mark he leaves behind at the institution is immeasurably large. I hope Dale Cooper's life continues to be as fulfilling for him in retirement as it has been in his years at Calvin College.

TRIBUTE TO RUDY OKRUHLIK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on April 26 the Brazoria Roundtable will honor Mr. Rudy Okruhlik for his over 30 years of work in Texas schools, the last 6 years of which were spent as superintendent of Brazosport Independent School District (ISD). Brazosport ISD consists of 11 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 3 intermediate schools, 2 high schools, and an alternative placement center. Under Superintendent Okruhlik's leadership, Brazosport ISD combined challenging academic programs with a passionate commitment to excellence in order to produce an environment conducive to high student achievement.

The results of Superintendent Okruhlik's efforts are shown in Brazosport ISD's rating as Academically Acceptable for the last 2 years on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, with 9 of the 18 regular education campuses rated exemplary or recognized in 2005. Additionally, Brazosport ISD has scored well above the minimum Federal Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for the last 2 years.

Prior to coming to Brazosport ISD, Rudy Okruhlik served as superintendent of Palacios Independent School District from 1992 through 1997 and of Huntsville Independent School District from 1997 through 2000. In recognition of his lifetime commitment to, and achievement in, education, Okruhlik has been named an honorary life member of the Texas Association of School Boards.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I once again express my pleasure in joining the Brazoria Roundtable in saluting Mr. Rudy Okruhlik for his work on behalf of Texas children.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JUDGE GEORGE HOWARD, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Judge George Howard Jr., a true treasure to the community of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and to the entire State of Arkansas. Judge Howard passed away April 21, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 82.

Judge Howard spent a lifetime breaking down barriers, and began his service to our nation at the age of 18 in the U.S. Navy during World War II. During his service, the Navy

was segregated at the time. However, it was this personal experience that led him to become an attorney to ensure equal treatment for all under the law of the land.

When he returned from the war, Judge Howard completed his high school education in Pine Bluff and went on to graduate with honors from the pre-law program at Lincoln University in Missouri. Howard then became the first African American student to live on campus at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he earned his doctor of jurisprudence degree.

Throughout his life and career, Judge George Howard believed deeply in the fundamental idea of justice for all. Judge Howard's distinguished service on the Arkansas State Claims Commission, the Arkansas Supreme Court, the Arkansas Court of Appeals and as a U.S. Federal Judge paved the way for African Americans in Arkansas to pursue careers in public service and the judiciary. He was admired for his fairness and will be forever remembered as a dedicated public servant who cared deeply about his family, his work, his state and his country.

Judge Howard will be missed by his family, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING REV. BILL MILLER OF HAYS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my respect and admiration for a man who has devoted his life to serving God and the lives of others—Reverend Bill Miller of Hays, Kansas. The time has come to recognize this man who has touched the lives of countless Kansans and only recently retired from his post as Hospital Chaplain at Hays Medical Center.

Reverend Miller began his position at Hays Medical Center at the age of 73. With his wife Carolyn so often at his side, he remained there for 11 years. It was only this past December that he decided to retire due to health concerns.

During his tenure at Hays Medical Center, Rev. Miller delivered daily devotionals entitled "A Moment with God" to patients and associates both personally and through a telephone prayer line. In order to share these with others, the publication rights for these messages were given to the Hays Medical Center Foundation. They were then compiled into the book, "The World My Father Made."

It came as a surprise to no one when Rev. Miller's book sold out within a few months. According to the Hays Medical Center Foundation, this prompted a reprint to meet the "overwhelming call for his book." One can only imagine how many lives he has touched through print.

According to Hays Medical Center Foundation Executive Director Bob Lowen, Rev. Miller "is the Rock of Gibraltar." "He's known now to second and third generations of families. He baptized kids and did whatever. Now many of those kids are parents and grandparents."

While Rev. Miller has truly been "The Rock" for so many folks, it is his wife and Carolyn

who has provided solidity and inspiration in his own life. Not only has Carolyn been his soul mate, but she has given of her own time as a Hays Medical Center volunteer.

Rev. Miller's history of service to others extends back several decades. He attended both Garrett Theological Seminar and Asbury Theological Seminar and was ordained in 1950. He truly made a difference in several Kansas communities as he served churches in Wichita, Hays, and Hutchinson.

Although I can express how special Rev. Miller is, no one does a better job of doing so as close friend and aforementioned Bob Lowen. As Bob said, "Rev. Miller is a tall, lean, kind and gentle man much like Abraham Lincoln. I have no doubt but that God gave Rev. Miller to us to truly be "Our Shepherd."

I cannot think of better words to describe thisman. Madam Speaker, our community owes a debt of gratitude to someone who has quite simply been a "Shepherd" to individuals in their time of need. Rev. Bill Miller has provided comfort to so many patients and families that I can only say "thank you." Thank you Rev. Miller for answering the call to make a difference.

INTRODUCTION OF PLAY EVERY DAY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to help address the critical issue of childhood obesity which is caused by physical inactivity and sedentary lifestyles.

Nearly 15 percent of American children and teenagers are obese. One quarter of the children between the ages of 5 and 10 already show the early warning signs of heart disease. Cases of adult-onset diabetes in children—which used to be almost unheard of—have exploded tenfold in the last two decades.

This is occurring as recess and physical education classes are being phased out of too many schools across the country. And too many communities lack adequate access to safe places and facilities for kids to play so the United States is being forced to confront an epidemic of childhood obesity.

This is unacceptable and action needs to be taken. Congress, the Bush administration, and private enterprise along with the philanthropic groups and health organizations need to reinvest to ensure that our children are living healthy lives.

Last Congress I wrote to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to request a study about the relationship between areas such as public lands and public health. GAO was unable to provide such a study in part because there were no consistent or adequate data from which to draw a conclusion.

To help better identify this relationship I am introducing companion legislation to S. 651 authored by Senator HARKIN. I am pleased to be introducing this legislation with the support of Congresswoman GRANGER, Congressman BOSWELL, Congressman MCINTYRE and Congressman CUMMINGS. The bill "The PLAY Every Day Act," will help to advance national physical-activity benchmarks for children and

adults alike. The legislation will specifically do two things.

First, it will mandate the creation of a well-validated evaluation tool called the "community play index." This index would be used to identify barriers which prevent people from being physically active in particular communities.

Second, it will assist local coalitions to use this index as they craft plans to promote physical activity and wellness in their communities.

While this bill is far from a comprehensive solution to the rise in childhood obesity it is an important step in the process. I urge the swift consideration of this legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT ITS WEST CAMPUS IN POTTS-TOWN

HON. JIM GERLACH
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Montgomery County Community College on its 10th anniversary of providing higher education opportunities at its West Campus in Pottstown.

Since opening its doors, the West Campus has become the hub of higher education in the greater Pottstown area. It has brought new and innovative programs and learning opportunities to the community, including degrees in chef apprenticeship, fine arts radiography and surgical technology; an art gallery to showcase local and regional works of art; and the University Center, which expands access to bachelor's and master's degree programs in Pottstown by working in partnership with area universities and colleges.

In the 10 years it has called Pottstown, PA home, the West Campus has undergone a significant transformation. Last January, the college opened a new addition that enabled it to expand its service to students, businesses and the community. During the 10th anniversary ceremony, the college will finally open the pedestrian bridge connecting the two facilities to form one, unified campus.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Montgomery County College for 10 successful years of providing quality higher education options at its West Campus in Pottstown, PA.

RECOGNIZING WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY
OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, rise today to honor and recognize the 70 Oregonian workers who died on the job in 2006. In addition, I would also like to pay tribute to the 19 brave Oregonians who died last year while wearing the uniform and defending our freedoms.

On this 19th anniversary of Workers Memorial Day, let us acknowledge the steps that have been taken to address workplace safety but let us never overlook the obstacles and challenges that remain.

We have an obligation in this Chamber to do everything in our power to ensure that hardworking Americans are protected from unsafe workplaces. These men and women have worked to make our Nation great and now we must recommit ourselves to ensuring their safety.

Andrew Acevedo, Kenneth Babcock, Leslie Bealer, Terry Berkey, PVI Joseph R. Blake, Dwight Boris, Carlos Bravo, PFC Dean R. Bright, Donald Brown, Debra Chapman, Abel Cinto, James Clark, Roland Couch, Iven Cox, Scott Cox, SPC Douglas C. Desjardins, Randall Dillon, Burl Eastman, James Edson, Ronald Engelsman, SSG Jason M. Evey, CPL Billy B. Farris, Kevin Fink, Carol Forest, Sgt. Brennan C. Gibson, Kenneth Graves, Trona Griffin, Floyd Grisham, CPL Chase A. Haag, Kenneth Harper, Lori Hayes-Kotter, SFC Richard J. Henkes II, Terry Hughes, Daryl Jepson, LCpl Derek W. Jones, SPC Robert L. Jones, Pedro Juarez de la Cruz, Michael Kallis, Jeffrey King, Aaron Lambert, Craig Larsen, PO2 Marc A. Lee, James Lester, Kenneth Lewis, Howard Lichtig, SSG Nathaniel B. (Brad) Lindsey, Michael Lilburn, Louis Lobo, SPC Jeremy M. Loveless, Kyle Lowe, David Mac Donald, Devin Malmore, PO3 Marques J. Nettles, LCpl. Randy L. Newman, Sean Mc Quillan, Eric Metzler, Pablo Montecinos, Douglas Mullen, Donald Mustoe, James Naillon, Brad Niemeyer, Ezequiel Osoria-Oliver, Captain Christopher T. Pate, SSG Robert J. Paul, Gary Percell, Henry Ploeg, Franklin, Pugh, Lewis Purcell, Leta Ramerman, Jose Ramirez, Anthony Rizzo, Douglas Sauter, Dale Seiders, Peter Simpson, Leland Smith, Quin Stone, Robert Thomas, Eddie Tol, PFC Thomas L. Tucker, Mark Wagner, SPC Ryan Doran Walker, Shane Watson, Lynn Webb, Jeffery Wilson, Louis Wofford, Robert Wolfe, Richard Woodworth, Howard Workman, and Ston Yackamouih.

COMMENDING BRENDAN A. JONES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Brendan A. Jones for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Brendan is a student at the Texas Academy of Math and Science in Denton, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Brendan. I would also like to recognize his

parents and the faculty of TAMS for their outstanding commitment to Brendan's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

INTERNET RADIO EQUITY ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, on March 2, 2007, the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB), a three member panel affiliated with the Library of Congress, issued a decision that changed royalty expenses for commercial and non-commercial webcasters and will likely end Internet radio as we know it today. According to the decision, which is retroactive beginning January 1, 2006 and commences through December 31, 2010, commercial and non-commercial webcasters would be subject to an increase in royalty rates from \$.08 in 2006 per performance to \$.19 per performance in 2010. The new royalty rates amount to a 300 percent increase for the biggest webcasters and up to 1200 percent for small webcasters. For most web casters the royalties will exceed their gross revenues and bankrupt them. The CRB has refused to reconsider its decision so the higher royalties—including retroactive royalties back to January 2006—are due May 15, 2007. My fear is that these new rates will decimate Internet radio and 70 million Americans that listen to Internet radio every month will no longer have access to this music service.

For these reasons, I have introduced the Internet Radio Equality Act which provides royalty parity for Internet radio providers. The bill vacates the CRB's March 2nd decision and changes the royalty rate-setting standard that applies to commercial Internet radio royalty arbitrations so that it is the same standard that applies to satellite radio, cable radio, jukeboxes, and record companies (when they are licensees of songwriters). The bill also sets a transition rate through 2010 that is the same royalty rate that satellite radio services pay (7.5 percent of revenue). Finally, the bill expands the Copyright Act's Section 118 musical work license for noncommercial broadcasters like National Public Radio to enable those broadcasters to also perform sound recordings over Internet radio at royalty rates designed for noncommercial entities.

I believe strongly that it is the responsibility of Congress to promote media diversity in all areas including web-based broadcasting and to ensure affordable consumer access to Internet media.

CONGRATULATING THE GOODWILL FIRE CO. NO. 1 HYDE PARK IN MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Goodwill Fire Co.

No. 1 Hyde Park in Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

From 1907 to today, the Fire Company has devoted itself to keeping the community safe. The Company's volunteers have been familiar faces in the Muhlenberg area, participating in every holiday parade, working with schools on fire prevention education and seeking to make Berks County a great place to live.

Without the dedication of its members, the Fire Company would never have been this successful. For 100 years, the Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 Hyde Park has had tremendous volunteers. These brave men and women have been providing a service to the community every hour of the day for the last century. This service is provided regardless of the weather, the time of day, and many times their own family commitments.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 Hyde Park, its current crew and the many men and women who have worn the uniform over the years for serving the community and helping to keep Berks County safe for the last 100 years.

HONORING TOLEDO MAYOR SHARON BRANSTITER

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mayor Sharon Branstiter of Toledo, Oregon. A dedicated public servant and one who committed her entire life to enriching the Toledo community, Mayor Branstiter lost her life this past Sunday at her home due to complications associated with a double bypass surgery.

Sharon moved to Toledo from Nebraska when she was 7 years old. She attended Toledo High School and earned a degree in education from Oregon State University. Before serving as Mayor, she earned her master's degree and worked as a guidance counselor.

What is most remarkable is the passion Sharon had for serving her community. From a young age, she was active in city government and served on a multitude of committees and clubs. Her friends and family will attest that she never forwent an opportunity to voice her concerns or stand up for what she saw as just.

Sharon worked hard to increase the aesthetic landscape of Toledo. As her colleagues recall, Sharon always included flowers and trees in city projects and spent countless hours gardening and weeding public places. The streets of Toledo are lined with beautiful hanging flower baskets that Sharon secured with donations from the community. As a memory to Sharon, let us always think of her contributions to Toledo when we see and enjoy the flower baskets.

I was reminded of the closeness of communities like Toledo when I recently attended the funeral for one of our young men who lost his life in Iraq. The young Marine grew up in Toledo. At the service, Sharon shared her heartfelt memories of this young man and emotionally explained that the entire community of Toledo was losing a son. I have no doubt that the community is now grieving the loss of a

woman who was not only their mayor, but was their sister, their mother, their daughter and their friend.

I join Oregonians from across the state in mourning the passing of Mayor Sharon Branstiter.

COMMENDING ALYSSA N. NABORS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Alyssa N. Nabors for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Alyssa is a student at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Alyssa. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of L.D. Bell High School for their outstanding commitment to Alyssa's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS
OF COMFORT WOMEN SURVIVORS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, today, Washington welcomes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, a country that has been our good and trusted ally in Asia. The Prime Minister's visit promises to further cement this important and expanding U.S.-Japan relationship.

Our strong ties depend upon our shared values of democracy and human rights or as his Foreign Minister notes, a "values oriented diplomacy." Unfortunately, the rhetoric does not consistently match Tokyo's actions towards its neighbors and allies. This is dramatically true in regard to the Comfort Women tragedy where possibly as many as 200,000 women and girls were pressed into sexual servitude for the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan.

My colleague, Mr. HONDA, is the leader on this issue and introduced on January 31, 2007, H. Res. 121, legislation that calls upon Japan to "acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal statement for Imperial Japan's Armed Force's maintenance of a system of sexual slavery, presently known to the world as 'Comfort Women,' during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands."

On February 15, 2007, Mr. FALCOMA, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, held a moving hearing with three survivors of this abusive Imperial Japanese government sanctioned and maintained system. It was clear from their testimony that these women needed, but had not received an adequate apology for their suffering and humiliation from the Government of Japan.

Clearly their experience is neither new nor has this sort of violence against women stopped. The topic of sex slavery is not merely a historical footnote, but has relevance to today's world where human trafficking is exploding and rape is a feature of ethnic conflict. Thus, it should come as no surprise that H. Res. 121 has substantial bipartisan support, with nearly 100 cosponsors.

To date, a careful analysis of the Japanese political process shows that Japan has never provided an official governmental apology to the Comfort Women. This is incredible. Do the Japanese think we do not understand their political system, nor care to?

It is also a concern of Congress that Tokyo's apparent insensitivity, its surprising and insistent focus on narrow definitions and self-seeking legalisms convincing to no one but a few, even in Japan, is harming U.S. relationships in Asia and adding instability to an already volatile region.

An unequivocal admission of past wrongdoing toward the Comfort Women would remove an outstanding moral issue weakening the ties between Japan and major U.S. allies in the region. But more important, it would demonstrate Japan's commitment to human rights, women's rights, and underscore its very new efforts to combat human trafficking. Officially apologizing to the surviving Comfort Women is "value oriented diplomacy."

Getting history right and taking formal responsibility for historical misdeeds are the marks of a great nation. An apology from Japan with respect to the Comfort Women would enhance Japan's over 60-year history of constructive and responsible membership in the today's world community and our alliance.

Madam Speaker, for all these reasons, I hope that my colleagues will join in co-sponsoring H. Res. 121 to signal that the U.S. is very concerned about this important request for social justice and human dignity from Japan.

RECOGNIZING EAST VINCENT
TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY,
ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of East Vincent Township, Chester County, for celebrating its 175th anniversary on May 4th, 2007.

East Vincent Township is a rural community situated on the banks of the Schuylkill River in Chester County. During the Revolutionary War, GEN George Washington and the Continental Army traversed and lived in the area during their Valley Forge encampment. Today,

more than 6,500 people call East Vincent home. As the Township grows and develops, significant efforts are being made to preserve its beautiful open spaces for future generations.

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, the East Vincent Township community will gather and celebrate this auspicious occasion with a parade, ceremony and evening concert.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of East Vincent Township for celebrating their 175th anniversary and for contributing to the wonderful quality of life of Chester County, PA.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN LOVE OF
LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable student athlete from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Kevin Love was recently named the 2006-07 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

Often perceived as the most prestigious high school athletic award, Kevin was selected from among a group of more than 547,000 student boy basketball players. Kevin averaged 33.6 points, 17 rebounds, four assists, and three blocks per game as center for the Lake Oswego Lakers.

In addition to his distinguished record on the court, Kevin received this honor for the many contributions he has made in the classroom and in our community. As an active volunteer, Kevin has mentored countless youth and is an inspiration to all.

It is truly an honor and privilege to extend my sincere congratulations to Kevin Love. I wish Kevin continued success as a future UCLA Bruin.

COMMENDING KIM TRAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kim Tran for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kim is a student at Birdville High School in North Richland Hills, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

Kim is ranked first in her class at Birdville High School. Aside from academics, Kim holds leadership positions in numerous clubs

and organizations. She has led the school's math and science teams to victory while attaining some personal awards. Recently, Kim was accepted to Stanford University.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Kim. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of Birdville High School for their outstanding commitment to Kim's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this conference report because it recognizes the reality on the ground in Iraq. It's past time for the President to recognize that reality and to change course in Iraq.

As events in Iraq have shown repeatedly over the last 4 years, we are fighting an insurgency that retains the support of the Iraqi people. Every previous troop increase the President has implemented has failed to achieve its stated end: to reduce the violence and buy time for Iraq's government to work out a political solution to end the insurgency. So far, the President's latest troop surge has produced the same result: The insurgents have adapted, our casualties are rising, and Iraq's leaders are no closer to a political settlement that will end the fighting than they were before the "surge" began.

This week, the Government Accountability Office provided fresh evidence that events in Iraq are spiraling out of control.

GAO Comptroller General David Walker testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on April 23 that "Despite U.S. and Iraqi efforts to shift a greater share of the country's defense on Iraqi forces, the security situation continues to deteriorate." Mr. Walker further noted that "in November 2006, the State Department reported that corruption and infiltration by militias and others loyal to parties other than the Iraqi government have resulted in the Iraqi security forces being part of the problem in many areas instead of the solution." So despite multiple changes in our approach to training Iraq's security forces over the past 4 years, they remain just as sectarianly fragmented, undermanned and infiltrated by insurgents as when we began the process in 2003.

Additionally, Iraq's civilian government shows no signs of reforming itself. Indeed, as Mr. Walker noted in his testimony, "Some Iraqi ministries, including the Ministries of Interior, Agriculture, Health, Transportation, and Tourism, are led by ministers whose allegiance is to political parties hostile to U.S. goals. These ministers use their positions to pursue partisan agendas that conflict with the goal of building a government that represents all ethnic groups."

The Iraqi population continues to support the insurgents. Iraq's security forces remain ineffective, corrupt, and infiltrated by insurgents. Iraq's sectarian civil war rages. Key

Iraqi Government ministers are actively working against stated American aims in Iraq. And the President of the United States wants this Congress to write him a blank check to continue funding this failed policy.

Fortunately, the conference report before us rejects the President's failed approach and holds him and the Iraqi Government accountable for events on the ground in this civil war-ravaged country. Passing this bill will send a clear message to Iraq's leaders that the patience of the American people has limits. Passing this bill is the best way to pressure Iraq's leaders to do what is necessary to end their civil war, because this Congress will not leave American troops in the crossfire between Iraq's sectarian factions year after year. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

RECOGNIZING CARRIE BAGNELL AS SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FL 2007 ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Carrie Bagnell as Santa Rosa County's Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Carrie Bagnell joined the Santa Rosa School District in 2006, with a background in Elementary Education from Indiana University. Ms. Bagnell is currently in her first year of teaching, where she teaches kindergarten at West Navarre Primary School in Navarre, FL.

Throughout her inaugural year of teaching, Carrie Bagnell has gained experience and training in phonics, literacy block, classroom organization and management, grants, and education of students with exceptionalities, ESE. Above all, she has earned the heart and respect of her students and the school community. Out of her passion for teaching and her love for children, Carrie Bagnell is the positive force behind each student's growth of mind, by giving them the confidence, knowledge, and inspiration needed to succeed.

The Rookie Teacher of the Year recognizes one teacher in his or her third year or less of teaching, and to be honored as Rookie of the Year places Carrie Bagnell among the great teachers in northwest Florida. Santa Rosa County is honored to have her as one of its own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Carrie Bagnell on this outstanding achievement and her exemplary service in the Santa Rosa County School District.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD GRESKO AND EXPRESSING THAT HE SHOULD RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HIS COURAGEOUS ACTIONS ON MARCH 11, 1970 IN VIETNAM

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute Richard Gresko, one of America's true heroes. The reason for my statement today, however, is to correct a grave injustice done to him by our country.

In March of 1970 Richard Gresko was in Vietnam serving as a lance corporal in the United States Marine Corps. On the night of March 11, 1970 Gresko was leading three of his fellow marines in an ambush to protect a village from the Viet Cong. Around midnight Gresko's team was surprised from behind by the enemy. A firefight ensued and one of the enemy threw a grenade in between Gresko and his men.

As the citation on his military award reads, "With complete disregard for his own personal safety and fully aware of the dangers involved, he unhesitatingly threw himself on top of the grenade, absorbing most of the blast fragments with his own body in order to protect his men from certain injury and possible death." Despite being painfully wounded, Gresko continued to direct his men in combat. When he was helicoptered out to receive medical treatment, he continued to give information about the enemy despite bleeding profusely with hundreds of pieces of shrapnel in his face, arms and chest. Madam Speaker, it is a miracle that he survived.

Madam Speaker, I wish I could be here today to say that Richard Gresko, a man who unhesitatingly risked his own life to save his fellow marines, received the recognition that he deserves, but sadly I cannot. Mr. Gresko's bravery, sacrifice, and valor are beyond question, yet he has not been honored as he should. To truly honor this brave American, he should be awarded the Medal of Honor. Despite the fact that Gresko's commanding officer immediately put him in for the Medal of Honor, 6 years would pass before any recognition of Mr. Gresko's heroism was made by our Nation when he was awarded the Navy Cross.

Madam Speaker, as a former soldier I appreciate the amount of courage and bravery it takes to do what Mr. Gresko did for his men. There is no room for subjectivity in this matter. Richard Gresko risked his life to save men under his command. That is the highest form of sacrifice a serviceman can make and it deserves the highest honor that our Nation can bestow.

For over 30 years Mr. Gresko has patiently waited for the recognition that he deserves. His case has undergone countless reviews but each time is caught in a web of bureaucracy and dead ends. It is high time that we honor this hero and pay tribute to him for what he did for us. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am introducing a bill to authorize and request that the President of the United States award Richard Gresko the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor on March 11, 1970, in Vietnam.

As if his gallantry on the battlefield was not enough, Mr. Gresko is also a pillar of his community in Newtown, PA, in my district. He is a father, a grandfather, and a husband of more than 38 years. Even today, despite the fact that he lives in constant pain from the injuries he sustained that night, Mr. Gresko is adamant that he would do it all over again. His instincts told him to run from that grenade, but Mr. Gresko says, "You have to overcome that. You know you're gonna die, but you have to protect your men. Sometimes the whole is more important than the one."

Madam Speaker, Richard Gresko is truly among the finest that America has to offer. It is my hope that with the introduction of this bill we will move one small step closer toward correcting an injustice that has gone unrecognized for almost 4 decades. Our Nation must do right by this hero whose actions define the phrase "above and beyond the call of duty."

REMEMBERING RUSSIAN
PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, with the passing of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the world lost a truly heroic leader. President Yeltsin was instrumental in placing Soviet Communism on the ash heap of history, fulfilling the vision of Ronald Reagan for victory in the Cold War by liberating Russia for its citizens to benefit from freedom and democracy.

The words of Vladimir Simonov, political commentator for the Russian News and Information Agency Novosti, in the article *He Did It His Way* memorialize President Yeltsin well.

BORIS YELTSIN: HE DID IT HIS WAY

MOSCOW.—President Bush sees Boris Yeltsin as a historic figure who served his country at a time of great change.

Prime Minister Tony Blair recalls the Russian leader as an outstanding statesman who realized how much Russia needed democratic and economic reforms.

Javier Solana, a European Union official and former secretary-general of NATO, thinks that Yeltsin displayed incredible foresight and courage when he decided to sign a hitherto unthinkable agreement on Russian cooperation with the North Atlantic alliance in the early 1990s.

These statements could be summed up in the following words, which the West could write on a wreath to lay at the grave of Russia's first elected president: "We are grateful to you for creating a Russia that no longer scares us." In other words, Yeltsin made Russia look normal in the eyes of the civilized world.

He gave his people three simple, fundamental rights that citizens of civilized countries have enjoyed for a long time. Under Yeltsin, Russians received the opportunity to say what they thought, elect who they liked to major posts, and own private property, be it a house in the Moscow suburbs or a villa in Nice, although the majority could buy the latter only in theory.

Having embarked on the path of democracy and the market economy, no matter how awful it seemed to some initially, the mysterious and dangerous communist controlled Russia turned into a sensible and understandable country. Russians became more

like Westerners. Perhaps at that moment, when differences were swept away, the Cold War came to an end. Credit for this historic accomplishment largely goes to Yeltsin as well.

By the end of his eight-year-long rule, Boris Yeltsin had lost the admiration of his compatriots. His popularity in Russia, but not in the West, had gone down. Well-to-do analysts watching events in Russia from afar thought that nothing tragic was happening. To be more precise, they believed that Russia had to go through its ordeals like any country undergoing a great change.

The West shares our grief because it also understands the greatness of the late Russian president. After all, it was Yeltsin who buried communism and made Russia part of the free world. In history textbooks he will always be remembered as a giant Russian standing on a tank, the man who prevented his country's return to the gloomy era of totalitarianism.

Frank Sinatra once sang "I did it my way." The same words can be applied to Yeltsin. He did it his way, and both Russia and the West are grateful to him for choosing freedom.

HONORING MARIO GALLEGOS, JR.,
FOR BEING NAMED "GOVERNOR
FOR A DAY"

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Mario V. Gallegos, Jr., on being named "Governor for a Day" in the State of Texas. Senator Gallegos, a long time Houstonian, has served his community first as a Houston firefighter, then as a Texas State Representative, and now as a Texas State Senator. He was the first Hispanic Senator elected to represent Harris County.

Senator Gallegos, like myself, is a graduate of the University of Houston. In Austin, he continually serves as a strong voice for the university, to ensure levels of funding increase with the growing population of his district.

Having served 22 years as a firefighter, where he retired as Senior Captain, Senator Gallegos has fought for growth and increased funding for firefighters and law enforcement, alike. He was recently recognized for his work in the 77th Legislative Session by the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters and the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas. Senator Gallegos has also received such accolades as the Texas Municipal League's "Distinguished Legislative Service Award," Legislator of the Year by the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, and the Fiestas Patrias Distinguished Hispanic of the Year Award.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize my good friend in his continued work to serve Texas, Mario Gallegos. His distinguished legacy of service speaks volumes and I congratulate him on being named "Governor for a Day."

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER KRISTEN HRIZO

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Kristen Hrizo of West Mifflin High School.

Kristen is the winner in the 2007 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Kristen's work, a piece utilizing pencil, ink, watercolors, color pencil, and marker, is entitled "A Walk in the Jungle."

Kristen's artwork was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I am certain that her family is proud of her artistic talents as well as this accomplishment.

It gives me great pride and pleasure that Kristen's painting will be representing the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be set up in the United States Capitol in the coming weeks. The winners of the Congressional Art Competitions held in each Congressional District will be displayed in that exhibit.

I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Kristen's artwork, along with all of the other winning artwork that will be on display throughout the next year. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would also like to recognize all the other participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular. I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

I want to congratulate all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District Art Competition and thank them for sharing their gifts with us.

U.S. TROOP READINESS VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2007 Emergency Supplemental Spending bill.

A few weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed a version of this legislation that included billions of dollars in non-emergency spending and numerous provisions relating to troop withdrawal that were not requested by the Administration or our military leaders. The conference agreement before us today endorses these extraneous provisions, and as a

result the President has made clear he will veto this bill.

As our Nation continues to debate the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq, some of my colleagues have argued that Congress should mandate a hard deadline for the redeployment of U.S. troops. While I believe that Congress has an important role to play in this debate, such crucial decisions should not be made without substantial input from our military and foreign policy leaders. I have disagreed with many aspects of our strategy in Iraq, but I feel strongly that requiring an arbitrary date for troop withdrawal would endanger our soldiers and undermine efforts to maintain stability in the Middle East.

Now is the time for Democrats and Republicans to unite around a strategy that funds our troops and supports an effective way forward in Iraq. We cannot afford to waste precious moments arguing over political objectives and pork barrel spending projects, such as those included in this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote against this bill and I call upon my colleagues to dispense with the political rhetoric and get to work immediately on passing a bipartisan emergency supplemental spending bill.

IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S BID
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, for years now, Taiwan has had no representation in the World Health Organization (WHO). The health rights of Taiwan's 23 million people have been grossly neglected. As a democracy, the Government of Taiwan is compelled to respect the wishes of its people and apply for membership into the WHO. Also, Taiwan would like to be invited to send observers to sessions of the World Health Assembly this May.

I support Taiwan's bid to be a member of the WHO. Taiwan's bid is closely related to its campaign for World Health Assembly observer status and meaningful participation in World Health Organization activities. The health rights of the 23 million Taiwanese people must be respected. Moreover, Taiwan is willing and able to contribute to the world health network. As of December 2006, Taiwan had 32 technical missions stationed in 29 partner countries and dispatched 16 mobile medical missions to 12 countries. It is conceivable that with a membership in the WHO, Taiwan will be able to contribute even more of its resources to the global health network.

Several years ago, Taiwan was gripped in crisis with the outbreak of SARS. Since Taiwan was not a member of the WHO, Taiwan encountered a significant amount of red-tape in getting WHO assistance to the affected areas during its urgent time of need during the SARS crisis. Should there ever be a new medical crisis in Taiwan, the WHO should be free of all barriers in assisting people in urgent need of immediate medical attention.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan's application for WHO membership in the name of Taiwan does not represent any change of Taiwan's status quo. Taiwan is most commonly known

as "Taiwan" internationally and the Government of Taiwan has made it absolutely clear that it has no intention of changing its national name. Taiwan's Constitution has not been changed.

I hope that the administration will once again enthusiastically support Taiwan's application and that no government will dispute Taiwan's membership request. All nations, especially the United States, Japan, and major European countries, should request the WHO to make appropriate arrangements for Taiwan to participate in WHO's mechanisms or at the very least grant Taiwan WHA observer status this May.

TRIBUTE TO THE AU SABLE
ANGLERS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most effective, well organized and long standing conservation groups in the State of Michigan, the Au Sable Anglers. This organization, which has done so much to preserve the Au Sable River, celebrates its twentieth anniversary on Saturday.

The Au Sable River is located in northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The river winds from Lake Huron inland running approximately 140 miles to the center of the peninsula. This picturesque river and its surrounding wetlands are a favorite fishing spot for Michigan residents seeking brown trout as well as for fishing enthusiasts who travel from across the country each year for some of the best fishing in the nation. The river has faced many threats, but the Au Sable Anglers have remained stalwart champions of the river, helping to preserve this wondrous natural resource for future generations of trout anglers and outdoorsmen.

The Anglers of the Au Sable was born out of efforts to prevent a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) policy from being rescinded. The State's 1986 Catch and Release fishing policy was at the time being challenged. To thwart efforts to rescind this policy, a local businessman named Rusty Gates, whose fishing lodge and tackle shop abuts the banks of the Au Sable River, rallied supporters.

In May of 1986, Mr. Gates began culling a mailing list from his lodge guests and patrons of his fly shop to organize allies and protect the catch and release policy. In September of 1986, six anglers—Rusty Gates, Dan Drislane, Ed McGlenn, Dennis Potter, Vic Prislipski and Gene Ballou—met in the Gates Au Sable Lodge. This organizational meeting was the genesis of the Au Sable Anglers. In August of that year, the Au Sable Anglers held their first annual members meeting with 75 conservationists in attendance.

While the Au Sable Anglers were originally formed to address the issue of the Department of Natural Resources' Catch and Release policy, they rapidly expanded their areas of interest to face down an array of threats to the Au Sable River.

When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initiated its re-licensing process for scores of hydroelectric dams in Michigan, in-

cluding six on the Au Sable River, the Anglers helped ensure that Au Sable River would be protected. In the early 1990s, the Anglers discovered illegal water regulation at a dam on the Au Sable that was causing extremely low water conditions. After pressure from the Anglers, the owner of the dam abandoned this environmentally damaging practice. The Au Sable Anglers were also involved on issues surrounding gas exploration near the river.

Although the Au Sable Anglers are active on public policy and environmental issues affecting the Au Sable River and its ecosystem, they are not afraid to roll up their sleeves to help remediate pollution and keep the river clean. Over the years they have helped restore scores of soil erosion sites and funded the repair and restoration of hundreds of fish habitat sites. Every year since September of 1996, they have held an annual river clean up, in which hundreds of volunteers walk more than 100 miles of river, filling trash bags with waste and debris. Since its inception, the annual river clean up has evolved into an event that rallies the entire Au Sable River community together. Not only do volunteers from the Anglers pitch in, but local property owners along the river open their land to the trash collection teams and help guide the teams from point to point.

The organization has also lent its financial resources towards engaging young people in conservation studies. Over the years, the Anglers have underwritten several graduate biology students to investigate soil erosion and other problems impacting the Au Sable River and its habitat.

Today, after twenty years of hard work to preserve the Au Sable River for future generations, the Au Sable River Anglers remains a vibrant and effective organization. The group boasts over 600 conservationists as dues paying members and remains involved in local environmental issues and in river remediation efforts. Rusty Gates continues to serve as the organization's President. Like the organization's founders and board members, he should be commended for dedicating so much of his personal time to building the organization and protecting the Au Sable River.

Madam Speaker, the Au Sable Anglers provide an inspiring example of how ordinary citizens can band together to protect and improve their local environment. While the Au Sable Anglers have not won every battle they have fought, their collective, tireless efforts have done much to preserve one of northern Michigan's great locations for fishing, canoeing and outdoors life.

Twenty years ago, six outdoorsmen gathered to discuss how they could protect and improve a northern Michigan river that they cared for greatly. Today, twenty years later, thanks to that initial meeting, the Au Sable Anglers remains a vigilant defender of the Au Sable River.

Madam Speaker, as this local, grassroots organization observes its twentieth anniversary, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking the Au Sable Anglers for their work and in saluting them for their stalwart advocacy on behalf of the Au Sable River.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FED-
ERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Founded in my home state of California on April 26, 1967, NAFCU's current member credit unions stretch from coast-to-coast and are more than 1,000 in number. These credit unions in turn represent more than 30 million individual credit union members.

From 1967 until today, NAFCU has been a strong voice in Washington on behalf of Federal credit unions. The NAFCU members in my district tell me that this association does an excellent job providing them with representation, information, education, and assistance to meet the challenges that cooperative financial institutions face in today's economic environment.

It is with this in mind, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Federal Credit Unions on their 40th Anniversary. I have worked with NAFCU on issues that are important to the credit unions in my congressional district, and I look forward to doing so in the future. Congratulations NAFCU on your 40th Anniversary.

ON PROTECTING AMERICA'S
WORKERS ACT OF 2007

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act (OSHA), passed in 1970, promised America's workers safe and healthy workplaces.

However, OSHA has gaps in coverage and approximately 8.6 million State, county and municipal employees are not covered by the law. Public employees have the same health and safety problems as do private-sector workers but have no protection in more than 20 States and the District of Columbia.

In addition, millions of airline and railroad employees, as well as Department of Energy contractors, are inadequately covered.

Another sad reality is that many employees already covered by OSHA are afraid to report health and safety violations for fear of retribution. When an investigation does occur, however, workers and families are often left in the dark about the progress of the investigation, and too often, even when an employer commits multiple violations, penalties are weak and ineffective.

The Protecting America's Workers Act improves upon OSHA in a number of ways: It raises civil penalties on employees and makes felony charges available against employers who commit willful violations. It also expands coverage to include public employees and millions of other workers who are inadequately covered by other laws. In addition, the Act improves upon current whistleblower protections,

specifically giving workers the right to refuse to do hazardous work and protecting against employer retribution. Finally, it requires OSHA to investigate all cases of death and serious injuries and gives workers and families the right to meet with investigators.

Since the passage of OSHA in 1970, much progress has been made. It has been reported that over 349,000 lives have been saved. Nonetheless, too many workers are still dying—5,764 in 2005—and millions of others are injured or become ill by working in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. The provisions of the Protecting America's Workers Act strengthen OSHA so that it can meet its promise to ensure safe and healthy workplaces for all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COM-
PREHENSIVE LEARNING ASSES-
SMENT FOR STUDENTS AND
SCHOOLS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Comprehensive Learning Assessment for Students and Schools Act or "CLASS Act of 2007." This legislation makes practical and meaningful reforms to the No Child Left Behind Act.

The importance of ensuring that each child in America is given the opportunity to reach his or her full potential cannot be overstated. Having an educated workforce is a matter of economic competitiveness and it is a matter of national security. I voted for the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, in 2001 because it placed much needed focus on accountability and on closing the so-called "achievement gap" in this country by targeting the achievement of low-income and minority students. These remain laudable and important goals.

Since the law was enacted 5 years ago, I have met with students, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, and others to discuss the real-world effects of this Federal mandate. What I have learned is that there is broad consensus in favor of establishing high standards and accountability, but there is also an emerging consensus that the law has had some unintended consequences.

In 2005, several stakeholders in Colorado's education community, including representatives from the Colorado Association of School Executives, the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Education Association, and the Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services Association, produced a policy paper suggesting meaningful reforms to the NCLB. The policy paper's prescriptions mirror what I have heard first hand from constituents in my district and other Coloradoans. My legislation addresses many of these suggested reforms.

First, the way that the Department of Education currently measures Adequate Yearly Progress, AYP, does not yield an accurate metric for actual student progress in our Nation's schools. For example, in Colorado in 2004, the Boulder Valley School District met 140 of 142 required performance targets, Littleton Schools met 124 of 128, and Durango met 91 of 94. Yet under the "all or nothing"

rules of NCLB each of these districts were labeled as failing.

The CLASS Act would allow schools to use longitudinal growth to measure student proficiency to calculate AYP more accurately. Longitudinal growth measures a student's progress from previous years as opposed to comparing the scores of one cohort of students one year to an entirely different cohort the following year. By focusing directly on individual students, we can develop a much better understanding of ways to improve the grade-level learning process.

In addition, the CLASS Act would require that multiple measures be used to assess AYP. These would include: the proportion of State report card indicators met, a performance index score, student drop-out rate, and a measure based on individual student achievement gains over time by disaggregated groups. When a school is required to offer transfer choices and supplemental services to a school because that school has failed to meet all of its AYP targets, transfer choice and supplemental services will only be available to students who fall under the one of the subgroups that failed to meet an AYP target. For example, if the students with disabilities subgroup is the only one within a school to not achieve AYP, then only those special education students would be offered transfer options and supplemental services. This common-sense measure allows schools and districts to target resources where they are needed most.

Second, two federal mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and NCLB are conflicting. Whereas NCLB requires that students progress at similar rates, IDEA expressly states that students with disabilities progress at different rates. NCLB requires that students progress be measured by a "proficient score" on a standardized test; IDEA is based on an Individual Education Program (IEP) team decision with a test score as just one factor. The CLASS act would allow a student's IEP to be taken into consideration when determining the assessment level under which a student would be tested for the purposes of NCLB.

Third, the CLASS Act would acknowledge the fact that becoming fluent in a new language is a complex process that occurs over time. It is unfair and unproductive to require students, while they are learning English, to be tested in both the acquisition of a new language and in the subject content. The CLASS Act would exclude the performance of students with limited English proficiency who have resided in the United States for less than three years, so as to avoid any distortion in measurement resulting from the new arrivals of such students.

NCLB has provided critical tools for parents, teachers, and administrators to understand how children are learning and what schools and families can do to improve education. But in order for accountability assessments to be meaningful, they need to be transparent and fair.

Madam Speaker, the CLASS Act goes a long way toward achieving the goal of transparent and fair assessments of student progress without compromising the critical goal of demanding excellence in our public education system. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GLEN ROCK
COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO
CURB UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the community of Glen Rock for joining together to fight underage drinking, which, according to the National Institutes of Health, results in the deaths of approximately 5,000 people under the age of 21 each year.

Many Glen Rock high school students face a destructive rite of passage called the Keg Race. The Class of 2007 is expected to consume 107 kegs of beer before graduation day in June. While no one has yet died as a result of this under-culture of house parties and drinking, the community has come together to try to put an end to this practice before some irreversible damage is done.

Regrettably, this is not a problem isolated to the community of Glen Rock. A 2003 study by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism noted that by the time they have reached the eighth grade, nearly half of all adolescents have had at least one drink and more than one in five reports having been "drunk." About a third of all high school seniors report engaging in binge drinking—that is, having at least five or more drinks in a single occasion—within two weeks of being asked as part of the report.

Elected leaders, spiritual leaders, and parents are joining together to form a web of support for each other and for community young people to help break this cycle of underage drinking in Glen Rock. And, I commend their efforts and hope other communities will follow their lead.

TRIBUTE TO KOUICHI R. TANAKA,
M.D., M.A.C.P.

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Kouichi R. Tanaka for his important contributions to the field of medicine and medical education.

Dr. Tanaka was born in Fresno, California where he lived on a grape farm with his parents and three siblings. In July, 1942, he and his family were placed in an internment camp in Poston, Arizona. Despite the lack of books and appropriate educational facilities, Dr. Tanaka pursued his dream of becoming a physician.

He would go on to earn a Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine degree with high distinction from Wayne State University, serve in the United States Army, and become a resident in medicine and fellow in pathology and hematology.

Dr. Tanaka began his academic career at the UCLA School of Medicine in 1957 and joined the faculty at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 1961 as chief of the Division of Hematology. He would also serve as associate chair of the Department of Medicine, acting

chair of the Department of Medicine, director of the Hematology Research Laboratory, program director, Professor of Medicine, and play a key role in training over 450 internal medicine physicians during the past 46 years. In addition, Dr. Tanaka has written nearly 300 research publications, leading to important contributions in the study of erythrocyte metabolism and to the understanding of hemolytic disorders.

Dr. Tanaka has received many awards and held many positions of distinction. He was President of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society at Wayne State University School of Medicine and founding associate editor of the American Journal of Hematology. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Wayne State University School of Medicine; the Sherman M. Mellinkoff Faculty Award at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and the Laureate Award of the American College of Physicians Southern California Region 1. He is the first Japanese American elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He was ACP Governor for Southern California Region I, was awarded Mastership in the American College of Physicians, and was presented with the 1999 UCLA Medical Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award. In 2004, he was selected to the inaugural class of "LA BioMed Legends".

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share how proud I am to have Dr. Tanaka working in my district's most important biomedical research institute, the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

URGING ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COM-
MISSION OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL TRACING SERVICE TO
EXPEDITE RATIFICATION PROC-
ESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 240, which urges all member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service, ITS, who have yet to ratify the May 2006 amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty, to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

The Holocaust was not a random act of mass murder but a systematic campaign of genocide carried out by the Nazis against the Jews. The world must never forget the more than 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. In total, the atrocities were more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe.

We must never forget the evil acts that happened during that era and we must continue the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and anti-Semitism in every form today.

After over 60 years, the Holocaust is still a presence, and there are living memorials all

over the world dedicated to the memory of those who so cruelly lost their freedom and their lives, and to the continuing education to conquer prejudice, hatred, and injustice. As we allow for open access to the Holocaust archives, we remind the world that the Holocaust indeed was a sad part of our world's history, should anyone doubt its existence. As recently as December 2006, the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, held the second Holocaust denial conference in Tehran in 1 year. The time to act is now. The opening of the archives at Bad Arolsen could not be more opportune, especially with the resurgence of anti-Semitism in this part of the world.

The International Tracing Service (ITS) archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, remain the largest closed Holocaust-era archives in the world. The 50,000,000 records on the fates of some 17,500,000 individual victims of Nazi war crimes will forever be memorialized, reminding the world of the travesty and devastation that occurred in Nazi Germany. There have been too many instances of survivors and heirs of Holocaust victims being refused their moral and legal right to information—for restitution purposes, slave labor compensation, and personal closure.

Problems persist when those who have requested information in the past have reported facing significant delays and even unresponsiveness; furthermore, the records remain inaccessible to researchers and research institutions.

The 1955 Bonn Accords established an International Commission of 11 member countries, which includes the United States, and is charged with overseeing the administration of the ITS Holocaust archives. The amendments to the Bonn Accords require each of the 11 members of the International Commission to ratify the amendments before open access to the Holocaust archives is permitted.

The International Commission of the ITS agreed upon amendments to the Bonn Accords that would allow researchers to use the archives and would allow each Commission member country to receive digitized copies of archive materials and make the records available to researchers under the respective national laws relating to archives and privacy. Only 4 members out of the 11 Commission member countries have ratified the amendments to date. Although the United States is one of the 4 members that have ratified the amendment, there are 7 member countries that have yet to ratify. It is imperative that these 7 member nations ratify the amendment because it is essential that Holocaust researchers obtain access now, while survivors are living. I join my colleagues in urging all countries that have yet to ratify the amendments to abide by their treaty obligations made in May 2006 and to expedite the ratification of these amendments.

The murder of 6,000,000 Jews and more than 5,000,000 other victims during the Holocaust must not be forgotten. We must remember those who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust and those who were not so fortunate to survive the evils committed by the Nazis. I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 240.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN R. SMITH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to COL John R. Smith, Chief of the Air Force Programs and Legislation Division, for his 25 years of service to the U.S. Air Force and our country. A command pilot with over 3,600 flight hours, Colonel Smith has supported combat operations around the world to include Operations Desert Storm, Restore Hope, Allied Force, Northern and Southern Watch, and Desert Fox. He has also flown numerous presidential support missions as well as humanitarian missions in relief of the devastation from hurricanes George and Mitch, flood relief in Mozambique, and earthquake relief in Turkey.

COL John R. Smith was born into the Air Force, the son of a World War II pilot and former prisoner of war COL Darrell Smith (ret.) and his wife Helen. Following his father into the Air Force, after high school he earned an appointment to the Air Force Academy and graduated in 1982 as a distinguished graduate. Upon completion of pilot training, he returned as a T-37 instructor pilot to teach and mentor future aviators first at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and then at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, home of the Pilot Instructor Training School. In 1987, he was selected as Randolph's Instructor Pilot of the Year. Following his tour in Air Training Command, Colonel Smith was selected to represent the United States Air Force as an exchange officer with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. In 1992, Colonel Smith was selected to fly the C-5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. From the C-5, Colonel Smith was assigned to the Pentagon in the Air and Space Operations directorate where he served as the C-5 and C-141 Program Element Monitor directing over \$1.5 billion in funding for these two fleets. He was then reassigned as a Joint Warfighting Capabilities Analyst where he prepared recommendations on Department of Defense budgets, programs, and force structure alternatives for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Smith was selected to command the Third Airlift Squadron, flying C-5s out of Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. Under his leadership, the Third overcame low aircraft maintenance reliability rates to support 17 major contingencies, exercises, and relief operations including critical taskings in support of operations in Iraq, Bosnia, and the Far East. The squadron was twice selected as the best operations squadron of the year at Dover, garnered 18 higher headquarter aircrew awards, and earned the year 2000 nomination for the best airlift squadron in Air Mobility Command. Following command, Colonel Smith attended Air War College and was then selected for a tour in the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison where he served as the Deputy Chief of the Weapons Systems Division. For the last 2 years Colonel Smith has served as the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division. There he is responsible for Air Force legislative engagement with the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in offering our sincere

thanks to Colonel Smith, his wife Jana, their four daughters, Renae, Elayne, Claire, and Pamela, and four sons Benjamin, Zane, Chad, and Kyle, for their service to our Nation. I would like to especially remember Zane, their second son, who died from leukemia at the age of 2. We wish the Smith family the best of luck in all future endeavors and congratulate Colonel Smith on the completion of an outstanding and successful active-duty career.

CALLING ON THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 7, which calls on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and step up its effort to stop the genocide. I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Rep. BARBARA LEE, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur and an estimated 2.5 million have been displaced. More than 3 million other Darfurians depend today on international aid for their survival. The United Nations has identified the situation in Darfur as the worst current humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world. The United States has officially labeled it genocide.

As we learned last week on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the international community must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of innocents. When we say we must "never forget," we must demonstrate that we mean it. H. Con. Res. 7, which has 115 co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle, is an important step in this cause.

This important legislation calls on the League of Arab States to support and accept United Nations peacekeepers as the best option to enforce a cease-fire, protect civilians, and ensure access for humanitarian aid workers; and to work with the international community to bring about a lasting peace in Darfur.

I hope that the Arab League will play a constructive role in ensuring humanitarian assistance in Darfur, insisting that the Bashir government accept more peacekeeping troops, and make a stronger effort to engage Sudan's neighbors in the peace process—which is what this Resolution is designed to do. Finally, the Arab League must work with the United States and the United Nations to work with the Sudanese government to help forge a comprehensive plan for stability and reconstruction across the whole of the country.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 7 and I hope all of my colleagues will lend it their support.

CONGRATULATING SAM BIANCO UPON BEING AWARDED THE UNITED WAY OF AMERICA'S "JOSEPH A. BEIRNE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD"

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Sam Bianco, of Vandling, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who was chosen by the United Way of America to receive its prestigious "Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award."

Established in 1974 by the United Way of America, the award annually recognizes a union member or labor leader who has rendered outstanding service to a local United Way community.

The award is named in honor of the late Joseph A. Beirne, co-founder of the Communications Workers of America International Union and the first union member to ever serve as board president of United Way of America.

Mr. Bianco has been a staunch volunteer and supporter of the United Way of Wyoming Valley since 1955. At that time he served as a campaign solicitor at International Ladies Garment Workers Union shops. He also served as business agent for the Pittston ILGWU and, later, as district manager for the Wilkes-Barre ILGWU. He currently serves on the United Way of Wyoming Valley's board of directors, finance committee, campaign cabinet and he has chaired the labor participation committee for the past 27 years.

Under Mr. Bianco's volunteer leadership, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council and United Way of Wyoming Valley were named the 1998 recipient of the "National AFL-CIO Model Cities in Community Services Award" for the outstanding partnership created between the local labor movement and United Way in jointly addressing and meeting human service needs.

Mr. Bianco, as president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, has partnered with the United Way of Wyoming Valley on numerous community service projects including the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive; creating the "Unions in the Community Girl Scout Patch" and being a co-sponsor of the annual United Way Labor Christmas Project.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bianco for giving his community so many years of devoted service. His contributions to the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania are legendary as is his love of helping people in need.

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fifth centenary of the word "America"—a name that has become

synonymous with opportunity, equality, freedom and hope.

On April 25, 1507, German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller and Vautran Ludd, Chaplain to the Duke of Lorraine, created a map that gave the name "America" to the new world discovered by Christopher Columbus 15 years earlier. According to historical accounts, the name was a tribute to Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine navigator who made 4 voyages to the new world between 1497 and 1504.

Waldseemüller and Ludd published 1,000 copies of the map that first coined the term "America," and I am proud to say that the only surviving copy—a priceless relic of our shared heritage—now resides in the Library of Congress, after being purchased in 2003 from the German Prince Waldburg-Wolfegg for \$10 million.

In the 500 years that have passed since the word "America" was first used, the term has become more of an idea than a name—a concept that celebrates what is best about humanity; a principle that defines what liberty, justice and unity are really all about; and a goal for the people of the world to strive towards.

We have come a long way over the last half-millennium—from a name on a piece of paper to a moral, political and economic leader among nations. And it gives me great pride to mark this momentous occasion on the House Floor and to join people all over the world in celebrating the fifth centenary of the word "America"—a notion that now means so much to so many people from all walks of life.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a strong advocate for women and human rights, speaking out against injustice in our country and around the world. She was the first African American woman to chair a Committee in Congress, and will be remembered for her commitment and dedication to ensuring that every American's vote counts.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in the 107th Congress, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked tirelessly to ensure that women from both sides of the aisle participated in the activities of the Caucus. She was a warm and open person, and was a true mentor to me during my first term in Congress.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to her husband, Mr. James McDonald, Jr., her children and all of her family and friends. Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since President Woodrow Wilson signed its charter on May 17, 1917, the organization has trained thousands of volunteers that have responded to numerous disasters in Humboldt County, California.

The lives of the citizens of Humboldt County have been greatly improved by the presence and benevolence of this organization. Whether disaster struck a single family or the entire community, the Red Cross has provided disaster relief focused on meeting basic human needs of shelter, food, and health services.

In its 90-year history, the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross has responded to hundreds of disasters; playing a critical role after the earthquake, tsunami, and flooding of 1964, four earthquakes that struck during the early 1990s and the New Years Eve storm of 2006. They provided assistance and sent volunteers to help after the attacks of September 11, the Indonesian tsunami of 2004 and Hurricane Katrina.

Leaders of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross have trained thousands of community volunteers in first-aid, health and safety services and disaster preparedness. They are committed to strengthening the ability of Humboldt County and its communities to prevent, respond and recover from unexpected emergencies and disasters and have led the local effort of a broader campaign of national preparedness.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the commitment, dedication and inspiration of the many individuals who make up the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross and extend our hearty congratulations on the celebration of its 90th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE SAVE OUR CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a simple solution to the global warming problem, a carbon tax.

This past Sunday, we celebrated Earth Day. Today, in Earth Day's honor, I propose the Save Our Climate Act. The first Earth Day in 1970 led to new laws to improve air and water quality, and was an important impetus for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. On Earth Day 2007, climate change is the preeminent environmental concern. I hope 2007 will be remembered as the year we ad-

ressed global warming by passing the Save Our Climate Act.

Climate change is a worldwide problem requiring each nation to do its part. The International Panel on Climate Change—600 of the world's leading scientists—suggests that temperatures may increase three to seven degrees Fahrenheit in the next century. Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" may have seemed like a scare tactic, but if we don't wake up to the realities presented in his documentary, we will soon wake up to flooded coastlines, unfarmable plains, and species extinction.

To date, the United States has failed to take necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Though the U.S. emits approximately six billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year—comprising nearly 24 percent of the world's total emissions—we have failed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. If we continue our refusal to act, we cannot expect other countries to do their part.

The vast majority of environmentalists and climate change experts agree that we need to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050 in order to stop the current pace of climate change. Every year we delay enacting legislation to slow climate change makes it that much more difficult to stop global warming.

Economists widely agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and save our planet from catastrophic climate change. The Save Our Climate Act is just that, a simple tax on fossil fuels that will decrease emissions and create immediate incentives for green energy. Under this legislation, carbon based fuels—coal, petroleum and natural gas—will be taxed at a rate of \$10 per ton of carbon content. That means coal, which has higher carbon content than natural gas, will be taxed at a higher rate. This tax structure promotes the use of less carbon intensive fossil fuels and creates an incentive to use other non-carbon-based fuels.

The tax will increase by \$10 per ton of carbon every year, making it less affordable to burn fossil fuels as time goes on. When the U.S. reduces its CO₂ emissions by 80 percent, the tax will be frozen at that level. The Save Our Climate Act will generate a small energy price increase each year, equal to about 2 cents per gallon of gas annually. As the tax rate increases, fossil fuel prices will increase, producers will have an incentive to invest in cleaner alternative energies, and those alternative energy sources will become more competitive.

While economists agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce CO₂ emissions, few agree on what to do with the revenues raised from the tax. The Save Our Climate Act does not prescribe how we should spend carbon tax revenue, but recognizes the many competing interests for this revenue. Low and middle-income consumers who may face modestly higher energy prices under this system could receive some of the revenue in the form of reduced income taxes or increased tax deductions or credits. We could also spend the money on alternative energy sources, health care, education, or a myriad other domestic environmental and social priorities.

The Save Our Climate Act is a simple solution to a very difficult problem. Some have suggested a system of CO₂ emission caps and a market to buy and sell emissions credits, often referred to as "cap and trade." I

worry that industry will thwart any attempt to set a real emissions cap. I also worry about the bureaucratic costs of effectively enforcing such a system. In contrast, a carbon tax is easy to administer and reduces CO₂ emissions by raising the price of fossil fuels, thereby reducing demand for those fuels. It's Economics 101, but unlike most school lectures, this econ lesson could save our planet.

Global climate change is too important for us to continue our inaction because of industry stakeholders or the worry over political consequences of raising taxes. A carbon tax is the best way to address the problem of global warming. I urge all my colleagues to do what's right for our country and the world by supporting the Save Our Climate Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE ANESTHESIOLOGY TEACHING FUNDING RESTORATION ACT OF 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Anesthesiology Teaching Funding Restoration Act of 2007. This legislation is cosponsored by Representatives JIM RAMSTAD (R-MN), DARLENE HOOLEY (D-OR) and PETE SESSIONS (R-TX).

This bill would restore 100 percent payment of the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) for teaching anesthesiologists involved in training physician residents in two concurrent anesthesia cases. The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) has endorsed this important legislation.

Paying teaching anesthesiologists 100 percent of the PFS for two concurrent anesthesia cases was the policy of Medicare until 1994. In that year, the Health Care Financing Agency (now called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) issued a rule reducing the Medicare payment to teaching anesthesiologists involved in training physician residents in two concurrent anesthesia cases to 50 percent for the second case. This rule has reduced the financial viability of medical schools and hospitals which have teaching anesthesiology programs.

Since the 1994 rule change, 31 anesthesiology residency programs have closed. An ASA survey of anesthesiology residency programs found that the average program was losing \$400,000 per year partially as a result of the payment reduction. Some programs serving larger Medicare populations report losses in excess of \$1 million per year. The UCLA program reported annual losses in excess of \$600,000.

Many programs receive subsidies from their medical schools or universities to offset these losses. However, some programs are experiencing additional losses as local commercial health care providers, including United and Blue Cross/Blue Shield in selected areas, drop full payments for overlapping cases and adopt the Medicare 50 percent policy for their commercial beneficiaries.

By passing this legislation, Congress would increase the flow of Medicare funds into these important teaching programs while also pro-

viding the programs an opportunity to dispute pay reductions by health care commercial providers. By increasing access to well-trained anesthesiologists, the ultimate result will be healthier patients.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that Americans have access to the highest quality anesthesiology services.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT BRANDON GREENWAY AND COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DOUGLAS GREENWAY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two Americans who achieved greatness in April 2007 at Fort Benning, Georgia. SSG Brandon Greenway and his father, CSM Douglas Greenway, became the first father-son team to compete in the U.S. Army David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition.

The U.S. Army David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition started in 1981 to determine the best two-man Ranger team in the country. The strenuous 3-day competition is designed to test the teams' physical, mental, and technical abilities as Rangers with less than 50 percent of the teams completing the competition. Every year, the event brings a great spotlight to Fort Benning, as the best and brightest Rangers in the U.S. Army display their incredible capabilities.

This event is designed to challenge the most tactically skilled and athletically gifted members of the U.S. Army. This is why so many took note when CSM Douglas Greenway entered this year's competition with his 23 year old son, SSG Brandon Greenway. At 47 years old, Sergeant Major Greenway was also the oldest Soldier ever to enter the competition. This father-son team met the challenges of this grueling competition and finished in the top half of the field.

This competition is a great way to cap the career of CSM Douglas Greenway, who is retiring in May 2007 after a distinguished 28-year Army career. Fort Benning will miss Command Sergeant Major Greenway, and I commend him as well as his spouse and family for their service to the country. For this reason, and for becoming the first father-son team to compete in the U.S. Army Best Ranger Competition, I am pleased to honor the Greenways in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING LENAPE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lenape Middle School of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. This school has consistently stretched beyond its own expectations, and was recently distinguished as a Don Eichhorn School to Watch.

This honor is bestowed upon Lenape by a coalition comprised of the Pennsylvania Middle School Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Lehigh University, Gettysburg College, and Duquesne University. It is one of only three Pennsylvania schools credited with this achievement, and should serve as inspiration for other schools around the country. It is through the dedicated efforts of teachers, administrators and students that America will keep its place at the pinnacle of success in education.

Lenape Middle School is a prime example of the success for which we strive each and every day. Through hard work, Lenape reaches new heights every school year. It meets and exceeds expectations, and celebrates learning.

Beyond academics, however, Lenape creates a flexible learning environment conducive to the struggles and pressures of early adolescence. Students are provided with the best teachers and resources available, and have the opportunity to excel in the areas they most enjoy. The performance of Lenape Middle School has once again raised the bar throughout the country, and they are to be applauded for their accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, strong public education sets the United States apart from the rest of the world. Lenape has been recognized as a Don Eichhorn School to Watch because it is a leader in public education; it is blazing a new trail in middle school education that other schools will do well to follow.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD OF BISHOP JOSEPH MADERA, M.S.P.S.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service and devotion Bishop Joseph J. Madera has bestowed to the community on the event of his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

Bishop Madera was born in San Francisco on November 27, 1927. He was raised in Mexico and received his priesthood at the Holy Spirit Missionaries House of Studies in Coyoacan, Mexico City, on June 15, 1957. Upon his ordination, Madera assisted in the minor seminary of the Holy Spirit Missionaries. After his work at the seminary, he was assigned to parish work in Mexico and soon after he was sent to the United States to serve in California.

His service in the Diocese of Fresno has made Bishop Madera a legacy in the community. On March 4, 1980, Bishop Hugh Donohue retired and Madera, who was serving as an appointed coadjutor bishop, was consecrated a bishop and was named Bishop of Fresno. During his tenure with the Diocese of Fresno, Bishop Madera founded the KNXT television station. He had his Sunday Mass in English, which was broadcast throughout the entire country and to Latin America.

Bishop Madera has an extensive résumé, having served in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Diocese of Fresno serving the communities of Fowler and Del Rey, Our Lady of

Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard, and as an assistant pastor at Christ the King Parish. In addition to his responsibilities to the church, Bishop Madera actively oversaw the pastoral care of 24 labor camps in Ventura County, lectured at the Camarillo Seminary of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, and hosted radio broadcast programs both at the local and international levels. He was also instrumental in the construction of the second part Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Oxnard, CA, as well as the rectory and the church.

In recognition of his years of commitment to the Catholic Church, Bishop Madera had the distinctive honor of receiving his ordination as auxiliary bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services by the late Pope John Paul II in 1991. In this post, Bishop Madera was responsible for the pastoral care of 2 million Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. military and their families, the residents of the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, and the civilian employees of the U.S. Government living abroad.

Bishop Madera's work and outreach efforts are highly commendable. He has left the communities in which he has served a better place because of the sincerity and generosity of his services and faith. Through his post on the Archdiocese for Military Services, he reached out to provide comfort and guidance to Americans domestically and overseas. Even though he is now retired, his advocacy and commitment to service carries on as he currently volunteers to assist the Bishop serving the Sacramento area in California. For all these reasons, it is without doubt an honor to recognize him today as Bishop Joseph Madera continues to touch the lives of many people, leaving his mark of good will across the world.

TRIBUTE TO MS. NATALIE HIATT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Natalie Hiatt for having served in my office as a congressional intern in the winter of 2006 and the spring of 2007. She has performed her duties with utmost distinction, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the tremendous work she has done on my behalf.

Ms. Hiatt is currently studying at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, as a transfer student from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX. She will graduate in May 2007 with a bachelor of arts in public affairs and administration. Due to her exemplary academic record, Ms. Hiatt has received scholarships such as the Academic Scholarship Award through her participation in the honors program at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Ms. Hiatt has consistently gone above the call of duty in ensuring the efficient operation of my office and maintaining ties with constituents in my district as a part of the press team. She also provided valuable insight on various legislative bills, and her ability to work with others, as shown by her extensive involvement in the college community at the University of Oklahoma, was of great benefit to my legislative team. She has a bright future ahead

of her, and I am proud to support her as she moves on to the next phase of her life.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the benefit Ms. Natalie Hiatt brought to my congressional office and ask you to join me in honoring her. I thank you for your time.

HONORING VICKI CODY DURING THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Month of the Military Child I rise today to honor the mother of two military children, Vicki Cody. Army members and military families throughout the world know her as the wife of Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody, but today I want to recognize her contributions to our nation as the mother of Tyler and Clint Cody, two outstanding young men who grew up at military posts throughout the world and followed in the footsteps of their father serving as Army helicopter pilots.

Standing behind her three Soldiers, Vicki Cody is the glue that holds her family together. For over thirty years, she has been so much more than a wife and mother. Her many roles include nurse, cook, teacher, driver, volunteer, moving crew, painter, dog walker, bill payer, and fixer of all things broken. On top of all that, Vicki has added one more title: author.

In her years as a military spouse and the mother of two Soldiers, Vicki Cody saw the need to help other families facing the challenges of supporting their sons and daughters in uniform. Working with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), her book, "Your Soldier, Your Army: A Parents' Guide," has reached thousands of families. At a time when every Soldier can expect to serve multiple combat tours, supporting the families they leave behind is critical.

I'd like to read a short excerpt from Mrs. Cody's book: "I have an advantage of having been part of this system for the past 30 years. I have a deep understanding of the military in general, and I have access to all kinds of information, resources, and support systems. Still, I know how scary it's been for me having both sons in a combat zone, and I think about all the parents out there who don't have that background. This must be very confusing and frightening for them.

"So, I want to use my knowledge, experiences, candor, insight—whatever I have I want to share with other families. I'm a little old-fashioned in that I still believe in the power of the human touch or connection. I also believe each of us can make a difference. Sometimes it's something as simple as reassuring a frightened mom or dad and letting them know there's a toll-free number they can call to get in touch with the rear detachment of their Soldier's unit, or maybe there are terms they don't understand, or why the mail takes so long, or why their Soldier hasn't been able to call for weeks. Sometimes they just need a little knowledge of a very complex and vast organization. I wish I could wrap my arms around all the parents out there."

From there, the book goes on to explain in simple but powerful terms how important fam-

ily is to every Soldier. As a military mother and wife, Vicki describes how families can best support their loved ones in uniform throughout the stressful deployment process as they make preparations, execute their combat mission, and readjust when they return home.

At a time when we are calling up our troops to bear an enormous burden, our military families need all the help and support we can give them, and Vicki Cody has stepped up to the plate again and again to offer her wisdom and the warmth of her heart as she speaks to the families of military members both in person and through her inspirational written words.

I am working with the AUSA to send copies of Mrs. Cody's book to every Member of Congress, and I urge each of you to read it and share the supportive and helpful guidance with the military families who live in your districts. While there is not an Army post or other military installation in every Congressional district, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines come from every corner of our Nation—from the smallest towns and biggest cities. These troops are the ambassadors of their hometowns as they serve in defense of our Nation throughout the world, and we must support them and the families they leave behind.

Vicki Cody and her fellow military spouses and parents are unsung American heroes. Without the support of their families, our military could not accomplish their mission, and we owe every mother and father, sister and brother, husband and wife, son and daughter, a great debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PASTOR PAUL HIRAM WELCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Pastor Paul Hiram Welch for his lifelong service and dedication to the First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola, FL.

Pastor Welch discovered his calling at the early age of three when he was introduced to the ministry by his father, D.L. Welch, upon his establishment of First Pentecostal Church of Pensacola. Pastor Welch's love for the ministry only continued to strengthen. He followed in his father's footsteps and chose to lead the spiritual growth of the community. At the age of 16, Pastor Welch preached his first revival and began his own evangelical ministry upon graduating from high school.

He returned to Pensacola in 1956 to serve as Associate Pastor and 3 years later, he married Shirley Ann Lane of Montgomery, AL. Members of the congregation came to know them as Brother Paul and Sister Shirley. In the mid-70s, Brother Paul was named Pastor of First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola. The impact Pastor Welch has had on the community is immeasurable; so many have come to know and love the Lord through his service to God.

The selfless contributions of this man are not limited to just one church. Pastor Welch has served as a member of the Florida District Board of the United Pentecostal Church International for more than 32 years and now

serves as an honorary board member. He also serves on the board of Lighthouse Ranch for Boys in Hammond, LA.

Through his leadership and dedication, Pastor Paul Welch has honorably and spiritually served the church and the northwest Florida community. But he is also a loving husband and father, and Pensacola is truly blessed to have him as one of her own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to a man who has served as an inspiration to us all. A deep sense of personal service to his faith for so many years is something to truly be admired and honored.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coppell High School Band for their accomplishments and commitment to the City of Coppell. The Coppell High School Band represents one of the finest organizations in Texas and in the City of Coppell. The band, which is composed of over 350 members, represents the school with pride and dedication that is shown through their hard work, perseverance, and achievements. The Coppell Band has received a variety of National and local awards and honors such as the Tournament of Roses Parade and has been a 7-year consecutive winner of the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Championship. I commend the Coppell Band of past and present for their dedication during challenging periods of growth and laud their accomplishments of becoming a premier north Texas organization for families and students to become involved in. I honor the Coppell High School Band on this milestone and look forward to the future as the city and this organization continues to be a shining example in north Texas. It is with pride that I serve such a distinguished city in my congressional district and give my sincere congratulations to the Coppell High School Band.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR SÁNCHEZ
MADAN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Oscar Sánchez Madan, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sánchez Madan is an independent journalist who has been a contributor to the independent press agency Cubanet since 2005. His straightforward articles as an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba have helped interested observers of the Cuban tragedy throughout the world to learn the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his commitment to accurate reporting, he persistently chronicled the brutal violence and rampant corruption of the Cuban

tyranny. Mr. Sánchez reported the truth in totalitarian Cuba, with the knowledge that any freedom of the press, any effort to shed light on the regime's atrocities, is met with brutal repression.

According to a Cubanet report, Mr. Sánchez Madan was arrested and detained by state security thugs on February 25, 2007 because of articles he had written describing problems confronted by the oppressed people of Cuba on a daily basis. He also reported on corruption by a government official in the town of Pedro Betancourt. After being detained, several state security agents questioned Mr. Sánchez Madan, demanding to know whether he was an independent journalist or had studied journalism. All the documents he carried on him pertaining to a story he was working on were confiscated.

Despite being forced to endure incessant repression, beatings and several unwarranted detentions in the last year alone, he remained committed to the people of Cuba and to exposing the truth concerning the tyranny. According to reports, on April 13, 2007, state security thugs confronted Mr. Sánchez Madan with trumped-up charges that he posed a "pre-criminal social danger". In little over one day, he was arrested, tried and "sentenced" to 4 years of torture in a totalitarian dungeon without even so much as the presence of a relative or a defense lawyer.

Mr. Sánchez Madan finds himself in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag whose depraved conditions are described by the U.S. State Department as "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime against humanity that people who work for freedom, who expose the truth and who work for the restoration of human rights to the Cuban people, are locked up in these condemnable conditions.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Sánchez Madan is one of the many heroes of the Cuban democratic movement locked in the dungeons of a maniacal tyrant for exposing the truth about the realities of totalitarian Cuba. No matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, these men and women represent the best of the Cuban nation. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Oscar Sánchez Madan and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING THE MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mesquite Independent School District Education Foundation for their dedication to the Mesquite community where they enrich the education and development of the city's 35,000 children. The Foundation promotes community awareness and student development, provides educational funding and encourages creativity. Their work has supplied valuable funds through grants for programs to supplement school budgets. Their efforts help students in Mesquite have access to the best educational experience possible.

The Foundation has been instrumental in financing many programs that kids enjoy today. Such funds have been used to purchase "hands-on consumable science lab materials" to provide students with interactive laboratory equipment. Other grants have secured reading materials for pre-school children to increase pre-kindergarten reading readiness levels.

To date, the Foundation has raised over \$800,000 and has awarded more than \$200,000 in grants to campuses and individuals. Soon, the Foundation will be formally announcing their next round of grants totaling an additional \$200,000.

As the Congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Mesquite Independent School District Education Foundation today in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber yesterday, April 25, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 259.

THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the terrible tragedy at Virginia Tech, as people try to make sense of this senseless act, we must remember to find strength in community. Last week, I spoke to Korean-American leaders in my district who expressed their deepest sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy—the same sense of sorrow shared by all Americans. I expressed my hope that the Korean-American community would not be targeted in any way, in the aftermath of this situation.

I am proud that so far this fear hasn't materialized, but I rise today to remind Americans not to place blame on this or any other group. Korean Americans should feel no communal sense of guilt or responsibility for this act. Their own pride in their achievements and contributions to American society should remain undiminished.

Rather, we all should keep the victims, their families and the Virginia Tech community in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. We can do this by supporting efforts like that of Washington State Senator Paul Shin, who has been working with local Korean Americans to start a fund for the victims' families. We also should work together to make sure that college campuses across our Nation retain their openness and continue to be bastions of hope and opportunity.

URGING ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE TO EXPEDITE RATIFICATION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, for generations, Israel has been defending itself against hostile nations and terrorism in the midst of a region long plagued by turmoil and instability. The United States, now more than ever, must stand by its relationship with Israel. I want to take this opportunity to address in more detail my support of recent legislation before Congress regarding Israel.

I am pleased to see a key piece of legislation pass the House this week that I have cosponsored, H. Res. 125. The resolution expresses deep concern over the use of civilians as human shields in violation of international humanitarian law and the law of war during armed conflict. During the summer of 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and the State of Israel, Hezbollah routinely used this brutal and illegal tactic of embedding its forces among civilians to use them as human shields. This bill calls upon the international community to recognize the breaches of international law through the use of human shields and calls upon the State Department to make recommendations to prevent the future use of human shields during armed conflicts. The majority of civilian casualties of that conflict might have been avoided and civilian lives saved had Hezbollah not employed this tactic.

I am also very concerned about an issue facing the rapidly shrinking population of Holocaust survivors, and their right to research the facts of the unspeakable tragedy. Earlier this year, I signed letters addressed to the Ambassadors from Great Britain, France, Greece, Belgium and Italy urging them to expedite the process of releasing the Holocaust archival records of the International Tracing Service (ITS) located in Bad Arolsen, Germany. These millions of extensive records have remained inaccessible to Holocaust survivors, their families, and researchers alike for decades. Al-

though progress was made last May when the International Commission of the ITS amended the Bonn Accords to allow each Commission member country to receive a digitized copy of the archives, some of the nations have yet to ratify the amendments. For the sake of these survivors and their families, I joined my colleagues in urging these governments to ratify this critical treaty amendment without delay. These letters led to the introduction of H. Res. 240, of which I am an original cosponsor and that passed the House this week. Mirroring the letters, the bill urges all countries that have not ratified the amendments to abide by their May 2006 treaty obligations and expedite such ratification. The bill goes on to urge all members of the International Commission of the ITS to consider the short time left to Holocaust survivors and unanimously consent to open the ITS archives should all countries not ratify the amendments by May 2007.

Since I was first elected to Congress, I have always supported strengthening the partnership between the United States and Israel. I am pleased to see these two important bills pass the House, and throughout the 110th Congress, I will continue to look for opportunities to bolster the relationship with our key ally, Israel.

TRIBUTE TO CPL TYLER S. TROVILLION, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay tribute to Cpl Tyler Seth Trovillion, USMC. Corporal Trovillion, a 23-year-old resident of Richardson, Texas, answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

He belonged to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon of Camp Pendleton, California. He died on June 15, 2005, when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

We Texans are so proud of the men and women we have serving in Iraq and appreciate their dedication to defending freedom and promoting democracy.

To his family, our prayers are with you, and we are grateful for Tyler's courage and service to the United States of America.

As President Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem."

Tyler, God bless you and God bless America. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR LOIS REBICH

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lois Rebich, the 2007 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Rebich is an Instructional Support teacher at Ross Elementary School in the North Hills School District in Pennsylvania. She began her teaching career seventeen years ago in the Pittsburgh City School District, but has been teaching in the North Hills School District for the past fifteen years.

Through individual assistance and one-on-one tutoring, she provides support to students who have academic, behavioral or organization issues. Mrs. Rebich has excelled by coordinating her efforts with parents, teachers, administrators and other students. As one parent said, "Mrs. Rebich does whatever it takes for the student and teacher to orchestrate a successful learning experience."

Pennsylvania has participated in the "Teacher of the Year" program since 1965. The program is co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education and the Pennsylvania chapter of the National State Teacher of the Year. Each year one teacher is recognized for excellence in education.

I am honored to have the chance to recognize Mrs. Rebich's extraordinary accomplishment of becoming the 2007 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. She is representative of all the great teachers in the state of Pennsylvania. These selfless men and women spend every day educating our children and helping them to become happy and productive citizens of this great country.