

work to make higher education a reality for all America's students by increasing the maximum Pell grant award and cutting the interest rates on student loans.

Mr. Speaker, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is also a wonderful opportunity for our country to honor hard-working and dedicated organizations that help our AAPI communities meet the many challenges of today.

I particularly want to recognize some of the organizations in my 34th Congressional District and thank their staffs and volunteers for the many valuable services they provide to the community: The Asian Pacific American Legal Center, is one of our Nation's largest public service organizations that provides legal services and education to create a more equitable society; the Chinatown Service Center's Family Health Clinic provides comprehensive, affordable health care to thousands of low-income families; the Little Tokyo Service Center's Community Economic Development programs have developed more than \$100 million in community-serving nonprofit real estate; the Filipino American Service Group, Inc., provides services to seniors, veterans, and homeless adults in and around Historic Filipinotown; and the Japanese American National Museum and its affiliate, the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, educates the public about the importance of remembering Japanese American history to help guard against prejudice in our society.

These are just a few of the many organizations devoted to improving the quality of life in the 34th Congressional district and throughout the Los Angeles region, and I salute them for their services.

In closing, I thank the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and especially my constituents for continuing to enrich my life, the lives of Angelenos, and our Nation as a whole.

**LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

This legislation provides protection to all Americans, and is consistent with our proud history as a Nation whose founding principle is that all people are created equal. Growing up on a tenant farm in rural North Carolina, I learned basic values that say that you treat all people with respect. These are the values that America stands for. Hate crimes—violent crimes motivated by bigotry against race or creed, hatred against nationality or disability, or intolerance for difference—have no place in a country that holds fast to those values.

Mr. Speaker, hate crimes exhibit exceptional circumstances where a federal role is appropriate and necessary because the crime is intended to intimidate Americans beyond the individual victim or jurisdiction where the crime occurs. The bill that the House is considering today provides vital support for the prosecution of these most heinous acts of violence. It gives local and state law enforcement vital resources to investigate and prosecute hate

crimes. These resources are desperately needed, as small rural police departments sometimes cannot afford lengthy and complicated investigations. The funding provided in this bill will ensure crimes do not go unresolved due to lack of funding.

This bill appropriately targets crimes that are motivated by hatred or bigotry, not the hatred or bigotry itself. While we must work towards a world free of racism and prejudice, it is not the place of the government to tell people how to think or feel, or what to believe. What we can and must do, however, is work to sow the seeds of justice, freedom, and equality. We must protect all of our citizens from crime, and ensure that justice prevails when hatred leads to violence.

I support this bill, and I oppose the Republican motion to recommit H.R. 1592 because it is a parliamentary maneuver intended to kill this legislation.

This bill is a step towards a more just, more equal, and more free society. It provides state and local law enforcement crucial federal resources they need, and makes sure that these terrible crimes are fully investigated and prosecuted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007 I was unable to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 302, 303 and 304. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on each of the three rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 7, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 407, H.R. 1025, and H. Res. 371.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 302 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 407, the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area Study Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 303 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1025, the Lower Republican River Basin Study Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 304 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 371, In observance of National Physical Education and Sports Week, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES
WEEK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe National Nurses Week, an

annual recognition of the critical role played by registered nurses in meeting the nation's health care needs.

The origin of this event can be traced to 1953, when Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare proposed the proclamation of a "Nurse Day." The following year, nurses were celebrated during the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to the Crimea.

National Nurses Week now begins each year on the 6th of May, which is National Nurses Day. During the week, we also celebrate National Student Nurses Day, on May 8th, and School Nurses Day, on May 9th. The week concludes on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, which is celebrated around the world as International Nurses Day.

National Nurses Week is one of the Nation's largest health care events. Activities include banquets, educational seminars, and other community-wide events. These events draw awareness to the importance of registered nurses in our nation's healthcare system. These nurses compose the largest group of healthcare workers in the United States.

Today, I would like to recognize our nation's 2.4 million registered nurses for their passion to the health profession and their commitment to quality healthcare. I support the goals of National Nurses Week, and am proud to represent many of our nation's fine nurses in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING RABBI MICHAEL AND
ELAINE STRASBERG

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong achievements of Rabbi Michael and Elaine Strasberg, of Flushing, New York. The Rabbi and Elaine will be the Guests of Honor at the Seudas Shabbos of Congregation Ohr Moshe in Hillcrest, New York, on May 12, 2007, where they will be honored for their lifelong community service. They will celebrate this joyous occasion surrounded by family and friends.

The Strasbergs have been leaders in their community for more than three decades. Rabbi Michael led the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor for 30 memorable years, during which he performed the B'nai Mitzvah services for my own children. More recently, he joined Congregation Ohr Moshe, which will be honoring the couple at a gala dinner on May 12.

The Rabbi Strasberg now works at Sinai Chapels as Director of Pastoral Counseling. In this setting, he provides comfort and strength to families who are going through the trying and painful time of the loss of a loved one. The Rabbi also educates the community with his moving shiurim or lectures on the substance and meaning of the Torah. Michael and Elaine actively participate in community events and organizations on behalf of Sinai Chapels, and work to preserve halacha (Jewish law) and Jewish tradition.

Elaine Strasberg is well-known for her superb cooking and enthusiastic leadership of Israeli dance classes for the women in the community. Elaine is also frequently at the top of my mind, as the creator of crocheted yarmulke, which I wear most often.