

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN CELEBRATION OF U.S. MARSHAL PETER J. ELLIOTT BEING NAMED "TOP COP"

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marshal Peter J. Elliott on being named "Top Cop" of the nation by the National Association of Police Organizations.

The "Top Cop" award pays tribute to the men and women in law enforcement for their amazing services to America's communities. Marshal Elliott was chosen from hundreds of nominations from across the nation, and he was the only person selected from the state of Ohio.

Marshal Elliott grew up in Lakewood, Ohio, and graduated from St. Edward High School. He is a third generation law enforcement officer from the Northern District of Ohio. Four years ago, he was appointed by the President of the United States as the U.S. Marshal to manage the forty counties of the Northern District of Ohio. He is the youngest U.S. Marshal appointed in the history of the district.

Marshal Elliott created The Fugitive Safe Surrender (FSS) program after Cleveland Patrolman Leon Wayne was shot and killed by an individual wanted on a warrant. Under this program, U.S. Marshals Service works with local faith and community-based organizations to provide wanted fugitives a chance to surrender to authorities in a safe environment. FSS not only reduces the risk to law enforcement officers but also reduces injuries and deaths in the communities where fugitives live. I have had the pleasure of working with Marshal Elliott in creating legislation for this program. Last year this legislation was passed and signed into law by President George W. Bush. As a result, Marshal Elliott's idea has been adopted as a national program by the United States Marshals Service.

Along with FSS, in 2003, Marshal Elliott created the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force that has worked to greatly reduce crime in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Also, in 2003, Marshal Elliott helped bring the Gang Resistance Education and Training program to the district to help prevent youth crime and gangs. This program has teamed up with professional sports teams, non-profit organizations, universities and others to help youths in northern Ohio.

It is because of his commitment and remarkable innovation in law enforcement that I wish to acknowledge "Top Cop" Marshal Peter J. Elliott. Marshal Elliott is an outstanding man who has greatly contributed to the safety of his district and the country.

SUPPORTING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK AND NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for National Teacher Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. There is no calling more noble than the profession of educator, as teachers play a vital role in shaping the future of our country and they have a deep impact on every member of our great society.

Like many of my colleagues here in Congress, I can recall wonderful teachers who helped change my life for the better and who have influenced me in profound ways, which they may never fully understand.

Madam Speaker, on a daily basis teachers are tasked with educating all of our children, in some cases spending more hours with students than they spend with their parents. Besides teaching students reading and math, educators help students learn the value of responsibility, social skills, discipline, and respect for themselves and others.

Teachers have the solemn responsibility of shaping the minds of our youth and preparing them intellectually, socially, emotionally, and psychologically to become productive and responsible members of our society.

In a time when so much is asked of our teachers, when they are required to play the role of educator, parent, counselor, and friend, it is imperative that we provide them with the tools needed to accomplish their important jobs.

I will continue to support legislation to fully fund educational initiatives such as Head Start, Pell Grants, and the No Child Left Behind Act, to name a few, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

We cannot continue to emphasize accountability and high-stakes testing for our teachers, who are on the frontlines working with students, without providing them with the resources to fully and effectively accomplish their objectives.

Despite the negative press that the teaching profession regularly endures, in the face of funding cuts and intense scrutiny, I know that every one of my colleagues realizes that the vast majority of our teachers are doing yeomen's work with the resources they are given.

So I would like to commend America's teachers and express my full support for National Teacher Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. As a Member of Congress, I will continue to do all that I can to support your efforts and provide you with the resources you need.

IN HONOR OF CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH MIKE DOWLING

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has distinguished himself as a good coach, a dedicated teacher, and a family friend—coach Mike Dowling, who is retiring after 28 years as football coach at Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota.

Coach Dowling has led the Cougars to five undefeated regular seasons, six district championships, and one regional championship. His overall record of 189 to 102 is certainly impressive. Over 150 of his players have gone on to play college ball and his winning teams have enhanced school spirit and the educational mission of the school.

But a good coach does more than win games; he is also a positive influence on his players. Coach Dowling has helped hundreds of kids reach their full potential both on and off the field. In addition to teaching them how to catch, throw, tackle, and win, he helped teach them good sportsmanship and ethical conduct. His efforts on the field have helped his players build character and taught them how to show and earn respect, play fair, and be responsible—and our society as a whole is better for it.

Although his history students will still benefit from his efforts in the classroom, his players and many fans will miss him on the sidelines next fall. I congratulate Mike on a winning career and I look forward to seeing him in the stands.

TRIBUTE TO CORRY AREA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, from April 28–30, 2007, more than 1200 students from across the country visited Washington, D.C. to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Corry Area High School represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and

• 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.

earned the chance to come to our Nation's capitol and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally acclaimed program display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With various reports and surveys that reveal the lack of civic knowledge and engagement, I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce an enlightened and responsible citizenry.

Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Corry Area High School are: Andrew Blair, Kelsie Boyd, Karen Costello, Abe Herr, Tom Jaggi, Kaisy Kafferlin, Melissa Kimmy, Maggie Mulligan, Mathias Otten, Abby Pelc, Kathryn Robbins, Kim Sperry, Kari Swart, Andrea Vandervort, Lindsey White, and Alexis Wojcicehowski.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Craig Dean, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Beth Specker, the state coordinator, and Marlene Shellito, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my state.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.

RECOGNIZING MOLECULAR
IMAGING WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that June 3–9 is Molecular Imaging Week. This year, Molecular Imaging Week is coinciding with SNM's (formally known as the Society of Nuclear Medicine) 54th Annual Meeting, which is taking place here in Washington, D.C. Based in Reston Virginia, SNM, with over 3,900 professional attendees and 180 exhibiting companies, will hold the world's largest event focused exclusively on the fields of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in Washington, D.C. this year.

Annually, more than 20 million men, women, and children need noninvasive molecular/nuclear medicine procedures. These safe, cost-effective procedures include positron emission tomography (PET) scans to diagnose and monitor treatment of cancer, diagnose neurological disease such as Alzheimer's and stroke, cardiac stress tests, bone scans and follow-up for breast and prostate cancer patients, and lung scans for blood clots.

Molecular imaging and therapy procedures provide safe, painless, and cost-effective techniques to image the body and treat disease.

These procedures are crucial in the early diagnosis of cancer, renal disease, cardiac disease, and Alzheimer's. Imaging procedures often identify abnormalities very early in the progress of a disease—long before many medical problems are apparent with other diagnostic tests. The techniques that are used in molecular imaging include radiotracer imaging/nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS), optical imaging, the PET scan, ultrasound and others.

Molecular imaging offers unique insights that allow a more targeted approach to evaluation and management of heart disease. It also plays a pivotal role in guiding the management of cancer: diagnosis, staging (extent and location), assessing therapeutic targets, monitoring therapy, and evaluating prognosis; and is playing an increasingly significant role in conditions such as tumors, dementias (Alzheimer's and other), movement disorders, seizures disorders and psychiatric disorders.

Molecular imaging delivers on the promise of "personalized medicine"—it can provide patient-specific information that allows tailored treatment of disease. It can show a precise (molecular) level of detail that provides new information for diagnosis. It is also key to the development of pharmaceuticals and genetic therapy. Molecular therapy can target molecules that deliver the therapeutic agent directly to the site of interest, bypassing normal tissue and avoiding the toxic side effects of many current therapies.

In 2005, SNM created the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, an organizational component within SNM, dedicated to all aspects of molecular imaging in the detection and management of disease.

I applaud SNM and its members for their efforts to educate others on this major healthcare innovation during Molecular Imaging Week (June 3–9), and I urge my Colleagues to join me in supporting policies that will continue to keep our Nation on the cutting edge of molecular imaging research.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL BOARD
FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
STANDARDS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, a time to express our deep appreciation for the dedication of our nation's teachers.

It is therefore timely to also recognize the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, which celebrated its 20th anniversary earlier this month, for its dedication to teacher excellence.

National Board certification is among the highest credentials in the teaching profession. Teachers speak of National Board certification with great pride.

There are 55,000 National Board certified teachers nationwide and I look forward to seeing more National Board certified teachers in our schools as we seek to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE BUREAU OF
EXPLOSIVES

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, today I would like to commend the unsung heroes who go unnoticed but who get up every morning and think about how to make our lives safer. They are the men and women who make up the independent agency known as the Bureau of Explosives, headquartered in Pueblo, Colorado at the Transportation Technology Center. This month marks the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Bureau of Explosives.

The Bureau of Explosives (BOE) was formally established in 1907 by the railroad industry to serve as an independent agency to promote the safe transportation of explosives. BOE wrote the very first hazardous materials regulations, which were subsequently adopted and expanded upon by the Interstate Commerce Commission and later the U.S. Department of Transportation.

BOE was originally called the Bureau for the Safe Transportation of Explosives, and was created under the American Railway Association (ARA), predecessor of the Association of American Railroads (AAR). With a chemical laboratory and 16 inspectors, the Bureau immediately took the lead in inspecting shipments, encouraging improvements in shipping techniques, and developing rules that form the basis of all modern regulations of hazardous shipments. Although the Bureau was granted considerable enforcement powers by the ARA in its constitution, it encouraged compliance through education. This was accomplished primarily by personally visiting shippers and railroad personnel to explain why the rules were necessary for their safety. Annual reports illustrated examples of situations where the rules were not followed. In 1913, explosives manufacturers and shippers and manufacturers of shipping containers were invited to join the Bureau. Shippers quickly began using the Bureau to improve preparation of their shipments to withstand the rigors of transportation.

Today, the BOE is managed by Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads. BOE inspectors located throughout North America continue to work with more than 350 member North American railroads, hazardous materials shippers, and container manufacturers and repair companies to ensure safe shipping practices. Congratulations on 100 years of work that has paid off, making the transportation of hazardous shipments by rail today safer than at any other time in our nation's history.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLORADO
SPRINGS CITY MANAGER LORNE
KRAMER

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Lorne Kramer on

the occasion of his retirement on June 30 after 44 years of commendable public service. Prior to his appointment as Colorado Springs City Manager in 2002, Mr. Kramer had served 28 years with the Los Angeles Police Department and more recently for 11 years as the Chief of Police for Colorado Springs.

A capable leader, Mr. Kramer has been a guiding force behind several projects in my hometown including the TOPS renewal, the renovation of Prospect Lake, the improvement of METRO and highway transportation systems, and the establishment of both Stormwater Enterprise and Airport Business Park. In addition to his commendable public service, Mr. Kramer volunteers in his private life with many organizations and serves on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, the Pikes Peak United Way, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Mr. Kramer's list of accolades is impressive. He has received the 2003 Alumni and Friends Award from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and the Graduate School of Public Affairs, the Public Administrator of the Year from the Graduate School of Public Administration at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and was appointed by the Governor of Colorado to the Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission and the Drug Control Systems Improvement Committee.

Colorado's Fifth District is fortunate to count among its citizens a man of Mr. Kramer's accomplishments. I am certain that though he is retiring from public service, Mr. Kramer will continue to have a positive impact on the Colorado Springs Community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 100th Anniversary of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, a storied tourist destination on California's central coast. The Boardwalk, with its 35 rides and other attractions, has provided a lifetime of memories for millions of people, establishing itself as a national landmark and as a vital component of our community. Situated on a sandy mile-long beach, it is the only remaining major seaside amusement park on the West Coast.

When the Boardwalk first opened on June 15, 1907 it immediately attracted national attention and received a telegram from President Theodore Roosevelt himself. Since then, tens of millions have visited the Boardwalk for fun and entertainment. Its rich history includes Miss California pageants, premier big bands, and daring performers.

I myself have spent many fun-filled days at the Boardwalk with friends and family, both when I was growing up and when I was raising my own child. Those are memories that I will never forget, and I am sure that millions of other families would say the same thing.

The Boardwalk is also unique in that two of its rides have been designated National Historic Landmarks, both built by members of the

Looft family of Danish woodcarvers: the Giant Dipper, a wooden roller coaster built in 1924, and the Looft Carousel, built in 1911. In fact, sometime this year the Giant Dipper will carry its 55 millionth rider on an adventure they won't forget. It is the 6th oldest roller coaster in the U.S., and has been in several major motion pictures.

As the primary asset of a locally owned corporation, the Santa Cruz Seaside Company, the Boardwalk has been an important driving force for our community, employing nearly 1,600 people at the Boardwalk, hotels, and other tourist destinations operated by the Seaside Company. Its active charitable contribution program results in yearly donations of approximately \$100,000 in cash and tickets to local organizations, and it has been repeatedly recognized for its support of ecotourism and its environmental efforts and policies, winning the California State Ecotourism Award in 2002.

As a steward of the environment and the local community, the Boardwalk has made itself indispensable to everyone involved with it. And although it has undergone many changes in the last hundred years, one thing remains the same: the Boardwalk has been, and will continue to be, one of California's premier tourist destinations.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to present the congratulations of my House colleagues to this community icon on this joyous and historic occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIVE ENTREPRENEURS LEGISLATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to provide business developmental assistance to Native American entrepreneurs across the country. I am pleased to be joined in doing so by Representatives ABERCROMBIE, RENZI, MORAN, MICHAUD, GRIJALVA, HERSETH SANDLIN, HONDA, MCCOLLUM, WU, and MOORE.

While our nation has experienced a steady economic expansion over the course of its history, the vast majority of tribal communities have not benefited or experienced similar growth. The unemployment and poverty rates for Native American and Alaska Natives are nearly double those rates for all Americans. Additionally, many tribal communities lack sufficient physical and technological infrastructure, and are hindered by low income levels.

Despite these shocking facts, there are reasons to be optimistic. Many Native American owned businesses are flourishing, while the number of Native American and Alaska Native owned businesses continues to increase. In fact, Indian tribe members and Alaska Natives own more than 201,000 businesses. These businesses employ over 190,000 employees and generate almost \$27 billion in revenues.

My bill works to expand on these entrepreneurial efforts by ensuring that small business owners and budding entrepreneurs can grow their businesses by accessing counseling and technical assistance available through our nation's Small Business Development Centers. The bill does this by authorizing grants that

SBDCs can apply for to provide assistance with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians. The business development tools offered by the SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the information and opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

This legislation also requires SBDCs receiving grants to help with these services to request the advice of the governing bodies of Native American tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations on how to best provide services to their tribal members. This ensures assistance from the SBDC that is culturally sensitive and appropriate.

It is clear we must do more to assist Native American entrepreneurs in building their businesses, which will, in turn, benefit their communities. With Congress's support, this initiative can play an important role in bringing economic growth to our nation's Native American lands. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and help foster entrepreneurial opportunities on areas of this nation that have thus far been left behind.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH B. SUMMERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, earlier, California lost one of its great water experts with the death of Joseph B. Summers.

Joe was once deemed "Watermaster" for several water entities in central and southern California. His knowledge, skill and a lifetime of experience brought many people seeking his advice on a multitude of water issues. His wise counsel is greatly missed.

Joe was born in Iowa and served in World War II as a B-24 Bombardier in Europe. He obtained a degree in civil engineering and began his career with the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of Interior in Denver where he met his wife, Rose. Moving to California in the 1950s, he worked for the Modesto Irrigation District and then was principal engineer for Stoddard and Karrer Engineers in Los Banos.

After establishing his own firm in Kings County, California in 1962, he was an engineering consultant for the Tulare Lake Drainage District to determine the drainage needs of the area and designing a drainage system for the Tulare Lake Bed near the town of Corcoran. At the same time, he negotiated contracts with the California Department of Water Resources for water supplies from the California Aqueduct, then under construction, for water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to southern California. In addition to those duties, he was principal engineer for the Solano Irrigation District in Solano County, California.

During the 1990s Joe undertook one of the most difficult tasks in U.S. water history: chairing the oversight committee which crafted a \$100 million agreement between the Southern California Metropolitan Water District, the supplier of water to much of the Los Angeles area, and the Imperial Irrigation District. It was one of the most complex water negotiations

undertaken and settled a long-term and previously intractable issue. Its settlement was an achievement unparalleled in California and U.S. water history.

As recently as 2003, Joe was chairman of two coordination committees to oversee the concrete lining of the Coachella Canal and All-American Canal in southern California to reduce seepage which will conserve thousands of acre feet of water annually. The projects are key components of an agreement reached on the allocation of Colorado River water among competing entities in the state and helped resolve issues among states who are parties to the Colorado River Compact.

Joe's Iowa farm experience served him when he applied his engineering expertise to develop cultivation techniques in the cultivation of his walnut farm near Hanford, California. His agriculture leadership was recognized as he was the first recipient of the Merriam Improved Irrigation Award and induction into the University of Iowa's College of Engineering's Distinguished Engineering Alumni Academy. Joe's local contributions include serving on the Hanford Community Foundation.

Joe was an inspiration and mentor to young people interested in hard work, achievement and having an impact on their chosen professions. His friendship and expertise are greatly missed.

THE 11TH ANNUAL WORLD
CONGRESS ON CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 11th World Congress on Civic Education, which will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 17–21. The conference, hosted by Conciencia Argentina and the U.S.-based Center for Civic Education, will welcome delegates from over 60 countries, including leaders of civic education organizations throughout the world. Participants will discuss best practices for imparting the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for democratic citizenship to students living in established and emerging democracies.

Through a national and international network of individuals, organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies, Civitas International Programs have responded for more than a decade to the wave of democratization sweeping through Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Civitas International Programs are directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act. They are implemented by the U.S. State Department and USAID, in cooperation with nongovernmental and governmental institutions in the United States and abroad.

The goals of the Civitas International Programs are to:

Acquaint international educators with exemplary curricular and teacher training programs in civic education developed in the United States and other participating nations.

Assist international educators in creating, adapting, implementing, and institutionalizing

effective civic education programs in their own countries.

Create and implement civic education programs for students in the United States that will help them better understand the history and experiences of both established and emerging democracies.

Facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences in civic education among educational, governmental, and private sector leaders in the United States and other countries.

Encourage independent research and evaluation that will determine the effectiveness of civic education in providing students with the knowledge and character traits essential to the preservation and future progress of democracy.

I applaud the outstanding achievements of the Civitas International Programs, and wish the delegates to the 11th World Congress on Civic Education much success in their continued efforts throughout the world in developing a political culture supportive of democratic values, principles, and institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 3, 2007, I requested and received a leave of absence from May 3 to May 9, 2007, due to my presence at previous commitments in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 315, the Tom Davis of Virginia Amendment, "no"; Rollcall No. 316, the Thompson of Mississippi Amendment, "aye"; Rollcall No. 317, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; Rollcall No. 318, on Passage, Homeland Security Authorization Act, "aye".

Madam Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent from the chamber from March 21, 2007 to March 22, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 167, Motion to Permit to Proceed in Order on This Day, "aye"; Rollcall No. 168, the Neugebauer of Texas Amendment, "no"; Rollcall No. 169, the Price of Georgia Amendment, "no"; Rollcall No. 170, the Al Green of Texas Amendment, as Modified, "aye"; Rollcall No. 171, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; Rollcall No. 172, on Passage, Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act, "aye"; Rollcall No. 173, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 835, "aye"; Rollcall No. 174, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 327, "aye"; Rollcall No. 175, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 797, "aye"; Rollcall No. 176, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 1284, "aye"; Rollcall No. 177, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 1130, "aye"; Rollcall No. 178, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 740, "aye"; Rollcall No. 179, on Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 260, "aye"; Rollcall No. 180, on Agreeing to the Resolution, "aye"; Rollcall No. 181, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Con. Res. 66, "aye"; Rollcall No. 182, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 261, "aye"; Rollcall No. 183, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, "aye";

Rollcall No. 184, on Approving the Journal, "aye".

CONGRATULATING PAM SCHMIDT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, dedicated and passionate teachers are vital to the education and development of our future generations. Today, I am honored to recognize Ms. Pam Schmidt, an eighth grade science teacher, in Aurora, Colorado. Ms. Schmidt is a recipient of the 2007 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence for her exceptional efforts and commitment to provide her students with an outstanding science curriculum.

Ms. Schmidt, the 1997 Colorado Teacher of the Year, seeks to inspire her students to explore the world around them by providing hands-on experiences such as collecting fossils in the Badlands of Wyoming or caring for one of the 47 classroom snakes. Through her efforts and example, Ms. Schmidt has helped foster a love of science and provided a better learning environment for her students.

The Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given by Amgen, an internationally known biotechnology company with branches in Colorado. The Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given to teachers in public and private schools whose dedication to imparting a love of learning and interest in science to the future generations. The recipients are selected by an independent panel that judges the applicants on effectiveness and creativity of teaching methods and how they plan to use the grant money to further science education in their schools.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
MORGAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Morgan for his service of 10 years as founding Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Los Vegas.

Dean Richard Morgan has overseen the development of the Boyd School of Law. His vision and commitment to academic excellence, as well as his talents as an academic administrator allowed the Boyd School of Law to receive full American Bar Association accreditation in five years, a truly incredible accomplishment.

Prior to becoming Dean of the Boyd School of Law, Morgan contributed to the legal profession in a number of different forums. From 1972 through 1980, Morgan served as an Associate, and later Partner, at the law firm of Krueger & Marsh in Los Angeles, California. In 1980, Morgan dedicated himself to the study of law and became an Associate Professor of Law at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. In 1983, Morgan was named Associate Dean of Arizona State University, a position

he held until being offered a position as Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1987. In 1990, Morgan returned to Arizona State University as a Dean and Professor of Law and remained there until taking up the audacious task of founding the Boyd School of Law at the University of Las Vegas in 1997. The Boyd School of Law has produced over 800 graduates who have gone on to effect change in the communities in which they work as public servants, community leaders, legislators, and advocates.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud to recognize Dean Richard Morgan. His contributions to the legal profession and his leadership at the Boyd School of Law are commendable. I thank him for his service to the University of Las Vegas community and with him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIE "BILL"
IVERSON GOLDEN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize Bill Golden, an outstanding Georgian who has dedicated his life to the betterment of society through his involvement in higher education and public service. Bill has been a friend and ally in working towards a brighter future for my constituents and the people of Georgia.

For the past sixteen years, Bill has served as the Director of Governmental Relations for the University of Georgia in Statesboro, Georgia. During most of this time, he also served as Georgia Southern University's Foundation President as well as the Director of Development. During his tenure there, Bill helped obtain over both public and private funding for many initiatives and spearheaded a government relations program between the university and Georgia's congressional delegation.

Before coming to Georgia Southern University, Bill worked at the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service, providing administrative support for the development and implementation of a statewide program in international trade and development and provided leadership for all counties in Georgia. He also served as an Assistant County Agent for Twiggs County, Georgia and worked to improve the county's 4-H and youth program. In addition, Bill aided in the development of the consulting firm Economark, Inc. which was developed to provide technical assistance in the area of economic and community development.

Bill's extensive leadership ability has also translated into his community involvement. For instance, he has served as the Director for Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce, President of the Alumni Society for Middle Georgia College, and chair of the 13-State Advisory Committee for the Southern Rural Development Center. He has also served as President and Board Member of the Certified Public Managers Association, a member of the Board of Directors of Georgia Industrial Developers Association, and the Vice President, representing the first congressional district, Board of Managers for The University of Georgia Alumni Society.

In light of Bill's outstanding record of commitment to others and dedication to excellence, it is with great pleasure that I rise in his honor. As Bill enters retirement I wish him continued happiness and success.

CONGRATULATING CAROLYN
CRAPO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, dedicated and passionate teachers are vital to the education and development of our future generations. Today, I am honored to recognize Ms. Carolyn Crapo, a high school physics teacher, in Aurora, Colorado. Ms. Crapo is a recipient of the 2007 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence for her exceptional efforts and commitment to provide her students with an outstanding science curriculum.

Ms. Crapo seeks to inspire her students to explore the world around them by providing hands-on. Through her efforts and example, Ms. Crapo has helped foster a love of science and provided a better learning environment for her students.

The Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given by Amgen, an internationally known biotechnology company with branches in Colorado. The Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given to teachers in public and private schools whose dedication to imparting a love of learning and interest in science to the future generations. The recipients are selected by an independent panel that judges the applicants on effectiveness and creativity of teaching methods and how they plan to use the grant money to further science education in their schools.

IN HONOR OF WALTER PARKER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize Walter Parker an outstanding Georgian and statesman. Walter has long been recognized by the citizens of Tybee Island and Chatham County for the vital role that he has played in community leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the residents of Tybee Island.

This outstanding public servant loyally served as Mayor of Tybee Island for 16 years and contributed enormously to the beautification and preservation of the island and to the refurbishment of the island's endangered beaches. As demonstration of his commitment to Tybee Island, Walter Parker was actively involved in many beach revitalization programs affecting the area and he also appointed the first Tybee Beautification Commission. Walter served as a leading advocate for state-wide support for the rebuilding of the Tybee Island Pier and Pavilion and initiated a massive cleanup and repair project dedicated to Tybee's municipal buildings. His tireless efforts

resulted in a new spirit of community in preparation for Tybee's 1987 Centennial.

Walter's commitment to the residents of Tybee Island is further demonstrated by his service on and involvement with many local, state, and national associations, boards and committees affecting the development of the city, including the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and Governor's Comprehensive Plan for Georgia's Coasts.

As Mayor of Tybee Island he demanded excellence in public service from the city's vital service agencies. Walter's hard work and visionary spirit provided a framework upon which future generations could build and helped to preserve a strategic area of the State of Georgia for all to enjoy.

It has been my pleasure working with Walter for many years for the betterment of our common constituency and for all those who know and love Tybee. Throughout our friendship, Walter has proven to be an efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public servant to his community and the citizens of this state. I extend to him my most sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber during the morning of Friday, April 20, 2007. Had I been present for the seven rollcall votes taken on amendments to H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, I would have voted "nay" on each one. This includes a "nay" vote on rollcalls numbered 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, and 242.

HONORING MOTHER'S DAY AND
SUPPORTING THE BREAST CANCER
AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my mother and all the women in my life. On behalf of these women, I demand answers to the question of what causes breast cancer. This disease has impacted virtually every American's life. More than three million women are currently living with breast cancer, and each year tens of thousands of women die from this disease.

A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime—this risk was 1 in 11 in 1975. Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women. While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

Scientific evidence about whether the environment plays a role in the development of breast cancer is scarce. There is a clear need for research on the potential relationship between environmental factors and breast cancer, and federal commitment is critical to the

overall, national strategy and to the long-term research investments needed for this effort to succeed.

To further this important research, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This bipartisan legislation was introduced again this Congress by Representatives LOWEY, MYRICK and CAPPS.

Madam Speaker, this bill would create a competitive, peer-reviewed research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. It is modeled after the successful peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense. A key component of this bill is inclusion of consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.

Let's continue to fight the war on breast cancer, and invest in getting the answers to eradicating this disease, in honor of all our mothers. Pledge your support today, by joining me in co-sponsoring the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, and in working towards enacting it this year.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL UOFL
DAY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I have the distinct privilege of rising in recognition of National UoFL Day, which honors the University of Louisville for its outstanding academic achievements, tremendous growth in recent years, and exceptional contributions to the Louisville community.

In the last decade we in Louisville saw unprecedented strides for our premier University, as it grew into one of the foremost research institutions in the country.

At Louisville's Jewish Hospital, doctors on the UoFL faculty implanted the nation's first successful artificial heart and performed the first three hand transplants, while Louisville scientists Ben Jenson and Shin-je Ghim discovered the first cervical cancer vaccine, and three year-old Chase Ford became the first child to regain the ability to walk after a spinal cord injury using ground-breaking rehabilitative therapy, developed by UoFL researcher Susan Harkema.

Due to these and other accomplishments, the school has experienced the most growth in National Institute of Health funding of any institution, and the number of endowed chairs at the University has more than doubled.

UoFL's student body has seen their average A.C.T. scores increase by nearly four points and the graduation rate rise by over 10 percent.

The University's commitment to the betterment of our community manifests itself in every facet of Louisville life, from its alliance with Project Women to its work with Partnership for a Green City to the new Signature Partnership Initiative, which will provide resources to areas of the city that need them most.

The landmark Cardinal Covenant program, which made UoFL the first public higher learning institution in Kentucky to promise a debt-

free education to students from low-income families, reaffirms a commitment that I share with the University: providing a world-class education to all capable, hard-working students.

Though the recent achievements are astounding, President James Ramsey continues to set goals for the future that are loftier still. Under the leadership of Dr. Ramsey, the pursuit of excellence can be seen each day in the students, faculty, administration, and alumni and the competence with which they chart the school's course guarantees many more milestones in the coming years.

And so, for the great distance that has already been covered, and for displaying the vision and capability to excel in the future, I am proud to share the Cardinal spirit by recognizing National UoFL Day and thanking the University of Louisville for all it has done for our community.

ON THE IMPROVING HEAD START
ACT OF 2007

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the The Improving Head Start Act of 2007. For 40 years, Head Start has provided comprehensive child development, literacy, and family services to more than 20 million pre-schoolers from low-income and working poor families. It is unquestionably the most effective early childhood development program ever developed.

Head Start graduates are less likely to need special education services, to be left back a grade or to get into trouble with the law. They are more likely to go on to college and to have professional careers.

At a time when there is an overwhelming need in our country for quality, affordable early childhood education, we can all understand how powerful this legislation could be. I hope we can all understand our shared obligation today—not only to maintain this incredibly effective program, but to help it reach more children in need.

As time goes by, we continue to learn more and more about the development of young children—their language development, their social-emotional development, even their brain development—and it all points to the fact that quality education and early engagement, from both parents and teachers, are essential for our kids' success.

That is why this legislation is so important. It will increase funding for Head Start teacher and staff salaries and professional development, strengthening training and technical assistance. And it will re-evaluate and update Head Start's current standards and assessments based on the best science.

We are going to increase accountability by devising a new system of application review that assesses program quality and leads to re-competition of low-quality centers. We are going to boost cooperation between Head Start and state and local child care programs to increase full-day and full-year services. And we are going to allow programs to convert portions of their grant for use for Early Head Start, which serves children under three years old.

Ultimately, though, this legislation is about expanding access to Head Start for more than 10,000 additional children. Ten thousand more children who will be given the tools to perform significantly better on a range of cognitive, language, and social-emotional development measures. Ten thousand children for whom, studies show, there will be a higher degree of parental involvement in the home and at school. Ten thousand children with a real opportunity to thrive and succeed over the course of their entire lives.

I want to commend and thank Congressmen KILDEE, CASTLE, and Chairman MILLER for their leadership on this critical legislation.

Head Start is a strong and effective program. The growth and success of millions of American children and families is living proof. We have a responsibility to embrace their success, support it, and strengthen it for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in arriving to the chamber earlier today during the recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON, to H.R. 1684, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. Had I been able to record my vote on this amendment, rollcall No. 314, I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2188, THE
KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT
ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in the words of novelist, P.D. James, "What a child doesn't receive he can seldom later give." Our children are entitled to stable, caring homes; if we deny them what they truly deserve, we can anticipate a colder, more uncertain future for our nation.

This week marks the tenth anniversary of subsidized guardianship in Illinois, an innovative program that allows foster children to exit the child welfare system into permanent families while using federal funds to provide caregivers with the level of resources provided to adoptive families of children in foster care. To recognize this milestone, my colleague TIM JOHNSON and I introduced H.R. 2188, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act.

Modeled after the adoption assistance program, innovative programs in Illinois, and recommendations from the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, this bill provides kinship caregivers with the necessary resources to address their children's needs. The bill addresses gaps in existing foster care laws that withhold important supports from children living with relative guardians.

By enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and the Adoption Assistance and

Child Welfare Act of 1980, Congress recognized the need to align Federal incentives with the desired goal of providing abused and neglected children safe, permanent homes. Nearly half a million children make up our nation's foster care population, with more than one in four of these vulnerable children living with a grandparent or other relative. Unfortunately, federal financial assistance currently is available only to foster and adoptive families, with only a few states receiving a waiver to provide subsidized guardianship. However, adoption is not a viable option for many children to exit foster care. For example, courts explicitly rule out this permanency option for approximately 20,000 children in relative care each year. Moreover, adoption is not equally available by families of all races and ethnicities, especially those in African-American and Native-American communities. Thus, subsidized guardianship is an important path to permanency for many abused and neglected children.

The current Federal guidelines also create financial disincentives to guardianship. Almost 19% of kinship care providers live in poverty, and 30% to 40% of children in foster care have chronic medical problems. Subsidized guardianship, like the federal adoption assistance program, provides needed support to these kinship caregivers to afford appropriate care for these vulnerable children. Terminating support to families once guardianship is established presents overwhelming hardships for these children and families that discourage them from leaving foster care. The limited federal support for guardianship is a critical roadblock to permanency for thousands of children, resulting in their remaining in the foster care longer than necessary and possibly aging out of the system without a legal family of their own.

With 10 years of experience under our belts, Illinois shows that subsidized guardianship works. Unfortunately, the subsidized guardianship waiver program expired in 2006. This means that no new states can benefit from the program, and, when the existing waivers for 15 states—including 10 Illinois—expire in the next few years, our children and thousands of children others will be denied this vital permanency option if new subsidized guardianship legislation is not passed.

So, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act allows states the option to provide guardianship assistance to relatives without a waiver. It also implements additional supports for kinship caregivers, such as establishing informational navigator programs to assist grandparents and relatives in accessing appropriate services and supports. Further, it allows states to establish separate licensing standards for relative foster parents and non-relative foster parents and requires state agencies to provide prompt notice to all adult relatives when children are removed from parental custody. The bill also extends innovative Illinois programs to the national level. For example, it expands eligibility for the Foster Care Independence Program so that education and training vouchers as well as independent living services are available to young people who exit foster care after age 14 to guardianship or adoption. It includes as eligible children who live in relative homes determined by the courts and State agency as meeting all applicable State safety standards other than licensure as well.

Subsidized guardianship is a bipartisan issue. Indeed, our bill is a companion bill to

that introduced in the other chamber by Senators HILLARY CLINTON and OLYMPIA SNOWE. Further, as you may recall, the reconciliation bill from the Republican-controlled 109th Congress would have extended authority for these waivers and removed the limit on the number of states eligible, providing further testament to the bipartisan nature of this issue.

As Forest Witcraft said, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child. . . ." As policy makers, we have the ability and responsibility to make a difference in the lives of foster children. We must use that ability to make sure the downtrodden and neglected of today are the achievers and leaders of tomorrow. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Representative JOHNSON in supporting this critical bill.

ARTISTIC DISCOVERY
COMPETITION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winner of this year's California's 32nd Congressional District Congressional "Artistic Discovery" competition and the contribution of all the people that made this event possible. As a Member of Congress, I am proud to support the artistic talent of our local youth by being part of "An Artistic Discovery."

This year students from 16 high schools in California's 32nd Congressional District submitted 186 pieces of work for Artistic Discovery. The winner of the competition was Jose Curiel from Arroyo High School, a resident of El Monte, California, for his piece titled "All Alone." Jose will be invited to Washington, DC, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and will have his artwork displayed in the Cannon Tunnel for 1 year. I am proud of Jose, all the runners up and honorable mentions, and all the youth who participated for sharing their talent with the community.

I would also like to thank the 2007 Artistic Discovery Committee for their support for the arts, for their dedication to California's 32nd Congressional District and their young talent, and for a successful "Artistic Discovery" competition. This event could not have been possible without the time and support of the 2007 Artistic Discovery Committee. This year's committee has truly set a standard with their hard work. I would like to recognize and thank this year's committee:

Denise Tornatore from the Baldwin Park Adult and Community Education School, who served as the Chair of the Committee; Carol Facciponti from Carousel Reality; Pascual Garrido from SCE Federal Credit Union; Irene Portillo from Project Amiga; Billy Rugh from Creative Planet School of the Arts; Michael Carney from AT&T; Elizabeth Bagwell from City of Hope; Kristen Pugh from City of Hope; Marianna Lake from the Valley County Water District; Dr. Ramon Zavala from Baldwin Park Unified; Marissa Castro from Southern California Edison; Helen Romero Shaw from the Gas Company; Nadia Andrade from UPS;

Shirley Batman from Bank of America; Michelle Bart from Helping Heroes Productions; Kevin McDonald from Foothill Transit; and, Debbie Guerra from AT&T Pioneers.

Just as important as the committee's dedication to California's 32nd District's "An Artistic Discovery" competition is the dedication of all the teachers of the participating schools. All our teachers deserve a big thank you for recognizing and supporting the talented students that participated in this event and encouraging them to submit their artwork. I thank all of our teachers for the work and generosity they give each and every day in the classroom. These submitted pieces of artwork are a testament to the energy, enthusiasm, encouragement and support that our teachers are providing.

The artwork that was submitted to California's 32nd District's artistic competition was awe-inspiring. I commend all the students who participated for using their talents in such a positive way and sharing those talents with others. I look forward to next year's "An Artistic Discovery" art competition and encourage all the supporters to continue with their good work.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BILL HARDISTY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, we often hear so much about what is wrong with America. I'd like to focus on what is right. And today throughout America, there are great teachers making a great difference in the lives of their students. As I often say, many people spend their lives building careers but teachers spend their careers building lives.

And few have done it better or longer than Mr. Bill Hardisty, the principal of Cassata High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

This year, Mr. Hardisty concludes a 37-year career in education. For two and a half decades, he served in the Fort Worth Independent School District as a coach, teacher and assistant principal. And for the past 11 years, he has served at Cassata. He started as associate director and in 2002, he was named principal.

Hardisty's service extends beyond our children's education. Before he taught in our schools, he defended our country. A marine who later served in the Army Reserve, Mr. Hardisty was the very embodiment of the noble Marine Corps motto: *Semper Paratus*. He was always faithful.

But it is his work as an educator that has touched the lives of so many future leaders. One of his students later served on my staff. Here is what he told me about Hardisty: "He taught with his heart. He knew that kids don't care what you know until they know that you care. Mr. Hardisty cared. And so his students listened and learned from him."

This is what teachers do: they shape minds and change lives. It was Yeats who wrote that education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire. Thanks to Mr. Hardisty, countless people are today living lives fueled by a flame lit long ago in his classroom.

Cassata High School will miss Mr. Hardisty. But it will never forget him. His leadership and his legacy will live on in the many students whose lives he touched.

Thank you, Bill Hardisty, for your service to your students and your service to your country.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN
SCOTT GARRETT IN HONOR OF
NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to praise some of the most under-valued public servants in our society: American nurses. They are ever-present at every stage of our lives—at our birth, through childhood illnesses and adult traumas, and in our final days. Yet, while people remember the doctor who delivered their children or cared for their aging parents, they rarely remember the friendly, caring individuals who stayed by their side while busy doctors made rounds.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, registered nurses constitute the largest segment of the health care workforce, with more than 2.4 million jobs in 2006. And, they are projected to create the second largest number of new jobs amongst all occupations. Yet, the demand for nurses is far outstripping the supply and many parts of the Nation—from the most urban inner city to the most remote rural community—are experiencing extraordinary nursing shortages.

Nursing is a noble profession, but one which is too often upstaged by other health care professionals and too often given little credit for the enormous role played in sustaining the high quality of American health care. As we celebrate National Nurses Week this week, let us all take a moment to thank the nurses in our hospitals and doctors' offices, nursing homes and hospices, and all throughout our communities for all their tremendous service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1873, SMALL BUSINESS
FAIRNESS IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1873) to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support for H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act and join my colleagues in efforts to ensure that small businesses are given a fair opportunity to compete for Federal contracts. I recognize that government agencies have recently been bundling hundreds of small contracts into single mega-contracts, which are awarded to only the largest contractors.

H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, will un-bundle many of these contracts and level the playing field for small businesses. The bill addresses the major

problems that have resulted in limited opportunities for small businesses in the Federal marketplace. The bill ensures that more contracting opportunities are available to small firms, fights fraud in the contracting process and raises the Federal small business government-wide contracting goal. H.R. 1873 implements changes that will remove a number of the barriers facing entrepreneurs in accessing Federal contracts, creating a more level playing field for this Nation's 26 million small businesses.

I want to thank Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for bringing this legislation to the committee and to the floor. The Detroit region's 420,000 small businesses account for 99.2 percent of all firms; this includes almost 300,000 sole proprietors. Small businesses with employees other than themselves employ 915,000 people or 47 percent of the region's employees. While big businesses have consolidated a large portion of their services and number of employees they hire, small business has helped mitigate the pain with modest but steady employment gains. The continued growth in the small business sector, especially in the formation of fair contracting for the diverse population not only in Detroit, but throughout Michigan, will create much-needed jobs and assist in the diversification of our region's economy.

By law, Federal organizations are required to support small businesses. However, contract bundling has resulted in less small business participation in Federal contracts. It is essential to help remove the barriers blocking small businesses from entering the nearly \$400 billion per year Federal marketplace.

I believe in the value of small businesses as the number one job creators in this country and strongly support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NO OIL
PRODUCING AND EXPORTING
CARTELS ACT OF 2007"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2007" ("NOPEC"), legislation that would effectively force OPEC to begin pricing in a competitive, free market manner or face the possibility of being prosecuted for civil or criminal antitrust violations. This legislation will establish that OPEC's activities are not protected by sovereign immunity and that the Federal courts should not decline to hear such a case based on the "act of state" doctrine. I am joined by Representatives CHABOT and LOFGREN, as original co-sponsors of this bill.

For the past year, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first gulf war. For the past several months, oil prices have remained stubbornly high, sitting above \$65 at the end of last week. Since January of this year, oil prices have climbed more than 20 percent, driving gasoline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia. And as of May 8, 2007, the average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline was \$3.036,

just 2 cents short of the record high reached in September 2005 after Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast.

The group of 12 nations comprising OPEC represent the classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for two-thirds of the world's oil reserves, and over 40 percent of the world's oil production. Most significantly, OPEC's oil exports represent about 70 percent of the oil traded internationally. This affords them considerable control over the global market. Its net oil export revenues should reach nearly \$395 billion this year, and its influence on the oil market is dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective.

It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products.

It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. Federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1157, and, in doing so, to honor my mother and all the women in my life. With Mother's Day approaching on Sunday, May 13, I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act as a tribute to each of our mothers. This bill would invest in the research still necessary to determine the potential links between breast cancer and the environment, so that we can cure it and eventually eradicate this terrible disease.

Currently, despite the efforts of numerous researchers, less than 30 percent of breast

cancers are explained by known risk factors. Though studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors, including diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, there is little conclusive evidence or consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Scientists have also proposed a number of other potential factors which have yet to be formally studied.

Though many experts accept that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role has not been determined. More research is needed to determine the precise impact of the environment on this disease. This bill authorizes a research program at the National Institutes of Health to do just this.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud to stand as one of well over 150 cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation. Because we don't know what causes breast cancer, or how to prevent it, as our Nation's leaders we have a duty to the American public to support legislation that will aid in the fight to understand and combat this devastating disease. I thank all of my colleagues who have already signed on to this bill, and I urge those who have not to, in honor of Mother's Day, join me in addressing this vital women's health concern.

GUILTY PLEA BY PURDUE FREDERICK COMPANY AND TOP EXECUTIVES TO MISBRANDING OXYCONTIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, 12 years ago a landmark painkilling medicine hit the doorstep of doctor's offices and local pharmacies with the promise of less addiction and less likelihood for abuse. This prescription drug provided a sustained-release mechanism with up to 12 hours of pain relief for a sore thumb or a back ache. This drug was billed as a "safe" alternative without the painful withdrawal symptoms of other opioids and enjoyed an FDA designation of "moderate-to-severe" pain, making it wildly popular among unsuspecting doctors and pharmacists. OxyContin seemed to be the answer for real pain relief.

Today, we know these were lies. The manufacturer of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, spent \$500 million marketing this deception and deceit. What began in the boardroom of Purdue Pharma executives has spread like wildfire into the living rooms, bathrooms and classrooms of families seeking pain relief. From 1996 to 2001, the number of oxycodone-related deaths nationwide increased 400 percent while the annual number of OxyContin prescriptions increased nearly 20-fold. Over the same time period, OxyContin brought in \$2.8 billion in revenue for Purdue Pharma, at one point accounting for 90 percent of the company's sales. Purdue heavily promoted OxyContin to unsuspecting doctors, many of whom had little training in the treatment of serious pain or in recognizing signs of drug abuse in patients.

To this profit-making scheme came the unsuspecting victim of eastern Kentucky. The birthplace of bluegrass music and the rich

story of Daniel Boone became ground zero in the war against the illegal diversion of prescription drugs. Appalachia Kentucky is home to a proud people, skilled in the crafts and arts, family-oriented and hardworking. It is also home to an aging population, war veterans and retirees, tough foresters and miners, living with above average unemployment and below average access to healthcare and medical information.

This was a perfect mix for an epidemic. On a per capita basis, our drugstores, hospitals, and other legal outlets receive more prescription pain-killers than anywhere in the nation. And at one time, my region accounted for 25 percent of all OxyContin overdoses in the country. Meanwhile, the death-toll continued to rise, topping out at nearly 500 Oxy-related deaths nationwide. Lives like Sheriff Sam Catron, one of the finest law enforcement officials in Kentucky I've ever known, who was cut short by the bullet of an OxyContin addict.

Today, the President, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief Medical Officer for the Purdue Frederick Company have plead guilty in Federal court to charges of misbranding OxyContin and will pay over \$634 million in damages. This is tremendous news. I have railed against the marketing practices of Purdue in the Appropriations Committee for nearly 7 years and I am pleased to see justice served. I applaud the work of the U.S. Attorneys from the Western District of Virginia and the Virginia Attorney General for their work to bring these criminals to justice.

This landmark case is a wake-up call for the entire pharmaceutical industry, and a warning that deceptive, destructive marketing practices will not be tolerated. The ill-gotten gains and greed of drug profits will hopefully never again be prioritized over the health-care needs of our citizens. Though this sad chapter has finally closed, we must continue to be ever vigilant against the scourge of illegal drugs in our communities. With wise and robust investments in state-run prescription monitoring programs, law enforcement personnel, substance-abuse counselors, and educators, we can win this war; regain strength in our communities, and save lives.

HONORING UPPER BUCKS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HEALTHY YOUTH COALITION

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition.

We are all aware of the dangerous rise in teen substance abuse. It is therefore reassuring to see area youth stepping up to help each other avoid the mistakes too many have made.

The members of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition have taken it upon themselves work against teen substance and alcohol abuse.

The success of their marketing campaigns speaks for itself. Madam Speaker, they can claim credit for 15 percent reduction in tobacco use among high school seniors, a 5

percent decrease in alcohol use among high school sophomores and a 44 percent decline in tobacco use among eighth-graders. These numbers demonstrate the effectiveness of the teen-to-teen strategy that they have implemented to protect their peers—our children.

The students in the Coalition began the school year passing out thousands of small buttons with the letters OMG—a common teenage online abbreviation. Next, they distributed hundreds of t-shirts and decals saying "2outta3." Finally, they handed out more than 1,100 t-shirts and 5,000 wrist bands reading "2outta3 don't drink," completing the message that two-out-of-three Upper Bucks teenagers don't drink.

The Coalition members have also enlisted local sports coaches to train them to focus on the incorporation of youth development strategies into coaching.

Local businesses are also joining the fight. The area Burger King franchise and other local stores have raised millions of dollars in support of Project CARE, which trains adults working with young people and awards higher-education scholarships to students formerly with alcohol, drug, or mental health problems.

I am not the first to recognize their great work. The White House National Drug Control Strategy cited the Coalition as an example for groups across the United States to follow.

Madam Speaker, these students have demonstrated great initiative in working to help their peers. On behalf of the entire 8th District of Pennsylvania, I would like to congratulate them for their efforts and their success, and urge others to use these remarkable young people as an example for true community service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS RIEHL

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Nicholas Riehl.

Private First Class Nicholas "Nic" Riehl, from Shiocton, Wisconsin died at age 21 on April 27, 2007, while serving his country in the U.S. Army near Fallujah, Iraq.

Last Saturday, his sister, Roselyn, had this to say to the several thousand in attendance:

When I think of my big brother Nic, many things come to mind. But coward was not one. So when he joined the army there wasn't going to be a way to stop him. His life was a long, long, road, with many turns, some for good, some for bad; but those little bumps in the road made Nic who he was. If he wanted something he would have to work for it, and he did with such pride. It was truly amazing, also he would do it all with a smile, but not just any smile, he has one of those smiles you can see with your eyes closed.

I know I was truly blessed to have him in my life, better yet as a brother. He was there to always lend me his words of wisdom, a helping hand, or to bring my ego back to the ground, and simply prove to me once again that he was the best. There were many things he attempted to teach me like guitar, how to be a "Riehl" leader on the basketball court, and never give up and also, to stay true to yourself.

I understand that the Lord needed him, not only did He take my big brother, He took my best friend. Nic, I'll see you on the court!

Please join me in a moment of silence for Nic Riehl, and for his family's courage in his loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF 2007 NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, National Teacher Appreciation Day provides us with a special opportunity to reflect on the importance of the teacher in our society and to note with deep appreciation the incalculable contribution that teachers have made to the educational and personal development of our citizenry.

It has been said that half of us is what we make of ourselves and the other half is made by others. There can be little doubt that "the rest of us" is profoundly and powerfully influenced by our teachers. Teachers affect our lives in significant ways—they guide our acquisition of knowledge, they facilitate our personal growth and they stimulate the development of our personalities and our imaginations. In short, they inspire us to be our greater selves.

Our greatest and most successful citizens and achievers have been molded and encouraged by their teachers. Conversely, where there is a failure to educate and inspire—where our young people don't have the guidance of good teachers—the consequences are clear, both in the short and long term.

In the United States today, our teachers hold the fortunes and futures of millions of children and young persons and, by extension, the fortune and future of our Nation as a whole. I am especially aware of this fact as a member of the Education and Labor Committee which is charged with examining the issues for reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. As the 110th Congress moves toward reauthorizing this legislation, we have sought to involve the teachers at every stage in the development of the plan. Second to our children, our Nation's teachers are the most important stakeholders in the future of NCLB.

As we observe National Teacher Appreciation Week, 2007, I would like to congratulate all teachers for continuing to give their best in the noble task of educating the children of our Nation.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL AND WITHDRAWAL BILLS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today's votes on the Iraq supplemental with benchmarks and the Iraqi withdrawal bill are important steps as congressional Democrats do everything we can to reverse the President's disastrous Iraq policy.

I support the vote to withdraw troops because it is consistent with the comprehensive legislation I introduced, "The New Direction in Iraq Act" and the supplemental because it is a way to keep the pressure on the President. Support for the continued occupation of Iraq is fraying, as Republicans have started to say in private what the American people started realizing long ago.

I have opposed the war from the start, and these votes hasten the day when we bring the tragedy of the Iraq war to a close. I will continue to do everything in my power to end this tragic chapter in our history.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PETE TORRES, JR., 1933–2007

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a true pioneer and champion of the common man. Pete Torres, Jr., was a great man who played a vital role in ensuring that everyone had a voice in their government. Mr. Torres passed away on Friday, April 27, 2007 at the age of 73. He was a friend, mentor, and inspiration to many in San Antonio, and he will be missed.

It was the late 1960s when Mr. Torres made history in south Texas and San Antonio. Mr. Carlos Guerra of the San Antonio Express-News best described the climate and challenges that Mr. Torres faced.

"In the 1960s, virtually every South Texas city and town was firmly in the grip of some chamber-backed clique that was neither attuned to the concerns of regular people nor particularly interested in letting minority people speak for themselves."

"San Antonio was hardly the exception," said Guerra.

It was this climate in which Mr. Torres broke down barriers for the common man and took the San Antonio City Council by storm in 1967. At a time when the city council was run by a select group of privileged citizens who in no way accurately reflected the diversity and dynamic of the city of San Antonio, Mr. Torres was an agent of change. His election to the San Antonio City Council taught all of south Texas a lesson in governing by advocating for causes that benefited the majority of San Antonio's people, not a select few.

While he served as a member of the San Antonio's City Council for 4 short years, his impact transcended generations and is still felt today. After his public service career, he continued to represent the disenfranchised and vulnerable as an attorney who was respected and beloved by all. He will forever be remembered as a pioneer and champion of causes for the common man and minorities. While he will be missed, his legacy will live on and the extraordinary contributions he made to south Texas and San Antonio will never be forgotten.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF GEORGE DUNKLIN, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., who passed away May 5, 2007, in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of 89.

Mr. Dunklin had two passions in life—farming and tennis. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to Arkansas where he helped run the family business, Planters Cotton Oil Mill, until he retired in 2005 as president after 66 years. He was the 1975 president of the National Cottonseed Association, Member of the Cotton Advisory Committee to the U.S. Agriculture Department Secretary and he received the 1990 Harvey W. McGeorge Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture, among other honors.

When Mr. Dunklin was not working on behalf of farmers across the country, he could be found on the tennis court. His love for the sport of tennis took him around the world. Not only was he the Arkansas State Men's Tennis Champion a record nine times, but he also played in two Grand Slam tournaments, the French Open and the U.S. Open. Mr. Dunklin was elected to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Tennis Hall of Fame and was a past president of the Arkansas Tennis Association.

Mr. Dunklin was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Pine Bluff, where he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher. He was a member and past president of the Pine Bluff Rotary Club and past president of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce. He was the director of Simmons First National Corporation in Pine Bluff and he served as chairman of the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff.

My deepest condolences go to Mr. Dunklin's wife, Mary Elisabeth "Lib" Black Dunklin of Pine Bluff; his daughter Deborah Tipton of Memphis, TN; his son George Dunklin, Jr. of DeWitt; his two brothers William Dunklin of Pine Bluff and Louis Dunklin of Dallas, TX; and to his 5 grandchildren. Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., will be greatly missed in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and throughout the State of Arkansas.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. What finer tribute to our wives and mothers could we pay during this week before Mother's Day than to join as cosponsors of this important bill.

This legislation would invest in the research we need to discover the potential links between breast cancer and environmental factors. It is research that could someday lead to a cure.

Over 1,000 Utahns will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year; of those, 200 will probably die from the disease. Even though Utah has a lower incidence rate compared to other States, it's tragic that a woman in our country has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime. That is a much greater risk than in 1975, when it was 1 in 11. We know that breast cancer remains the second-leading cause of cancer death among women. I am committed—as I know you are—to finding answers to the questions about possible links between this life-threatening disease and environmental factors.

We know we are making progress against breast cancer, but we don't yet know enough about what causes it, or how to prevent it.

Let's make this 2007 Mother's Day the time we step up our investment into the critical search for answers. A bipartisan group of 144 of our colleagues has already cosponsored H.R. 1157. I urge everyone to join that group.

I hope that this Congress will act on the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. I believe it's an important piece of the puzzle as we continue the fight to defeat this potential threat to the health and well-being of mothers everywhere.

URGING SUPPORT OF THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for greater research into the possible link between breast cancer and the environment. I am a supporter of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act and I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation, as a tribute to all of our mothers on Mother's Day. This bill would invest in the research still necessary to determine the potential links between breast cancer and the environment, so we can better treat and eventually eradicate this terrible disease.

Madam Speaker, families in the 8th District of Pennsylvania have urged me to fight for increased research into the potential links between the environment and breast cancer. It is especially important to me personally, as my own mother battled and beat breast cancer when I was a young child. I continue admire her bravery and determination, and I hope we can look to that strength as a model as we commit to doing everything in our power to find a cure.

A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime—this risk was 1 in 11 in 1975. Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women.

While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it. What better way to honor our mothers this year than to commit to finding answers to a disease suffered by more than 3 million women in this country? Let's declare war on breast cancer, and invest in getting the answers we need to eradicate this disease.

I urge my fellow members to support of the bipartisan Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

HOLDING CONTRACTORS ACCOUNT- ABLE FOR AIRPORT SECURITY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleague from Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, in introducing legislation (H.R. 2288) that will address a security loophole endangering millions of Americans. One lesson we learned from September 11 is the importance of airport security. The security of our airports has a glaring weakness: badges.

According to a CBS Channel 2 Chicago investigative report, 3,760 aviation security badges have gone missing from O'Hare Airport since 2004. These badges are the only identification necessary for law enforcement officials, independent contractors, baggage handlers, flight attendants, and pilots to enter O'Hare. Aside from these aviation security badges, no baggage inspections, metal detectors, or other searches are required to enter the airfield. The investigative report revealed that airport contractors are unwilling to reclaim badges from employees who quit, were fired, or otherwise reassigned.

This casual attitude towards reclaiming security badges is not acceptable. O'Hare registered more than 477,000 flights in 2005. In light of last year's liquid explosive threat, there remains a risk of terrorist attacks on domestic and international flights. Given this threat, we must know with certainty who has unrestricted access to the airport, terminals, baggage, and aircraft and if they remain trustworthy and authorized to work in a secure area.

This problem is not isolated to Chicago. According to data compiled by the Congressional Research Service, many of the Nation's airports have similar problems reclaiming security badges. In early February, officials at the Los Angeles International Airport reported more than 120 missing Transportation Security Administration uniforms and badges. In Oakland, 500 badges went missing last year. At Buffalo Airport in New York, nearly 40 security badges were reported missing or stolen in 2006. Forty-two turned up missing in Dallas.

What we need now is for the private contractors who employ airport employees to be held accountable for what should be a routine business practice. Under this legislation, contractors must make a reasonable effort to retrieve badges from employees whose term of employment ends, and must notify the local airport authority of the termination within 24 hours. Failure to do would result in a civil fine of up to \$10,000 per badge per day. Mr. LIPINSKI and I crafted this bill in consultation with the Airports Council International of North America, our Nation's largest airport association.

In the post-September 11 environment, we must ensure professional vigilance to secure our Nation's airports. We need private contractors to be held accountable for what should be a routine business practice. By hitting contractors where it hurts—their pocketbooks—we can help make our Nation's airports safer.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JIM CASTLEMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 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 Jim Castleman for his 38 years of faithful service teaching in the public school system.

Jim Castleman began teaching at Plew Elementary in 1969 upon receiving his Bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida and later went on to earn his Master's degree in 1972. While teaching fifth grade at Plew Elementary, Mr. Castleman has become a prominent member of the community well-known for his dedication and generosity. His contributions to excellence in education were recognized when he was honored by the Okaloosa County School Board as Teacher of the Year in 1985.

Mr. Castleman's involvement both in and out of the classroom proves his dedication and passion for teaching. In 1991, Mr. Castleman began coaching the school's tremendously successful Academic Team. The Academic Team competes in three state competitions each year and over the course of his seventeen years as coach they have earned numerous awards including eleven 1st place awards, nineteen 2nd place awards, and three 3rd place awards. For Mr. Castleman's final year as coach, the team not only earned 1st place in the state, but also 1st place in the entire Southeast Region.

He has spent much of his time becoming personally involved in the students' lives in his efforts to make learning an enjoyable adventure. Mr. Castleman could often be found on the playground engaging in a friendly game of kickball with his students. Since 1972, he has been building and launching rockets with his students, and in 1991 he developed the popular educational club, Young Astronauts. The program concludes each year with a trip to space camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Castleman is also credited with organizing the school's Safety Patrol which teaches his students the importance of service and safety for others.

As a member of the local 1960's rock band, the Thunderbeats, Jim performed gigs throughout Florida and later utilized his talent and love for percussion to teach drum lessons for 35 years. He plans to continue conducting drum lessons after his retirement from the public school system.

Out of his passion for teaching and his love for children, Jim sets high standards for all of his students and works with them to achieve their individual goals and the desired results of the overall academic performance of the class. He is the positive force behind each student's growth of mind, by giving them the confidence, knowledge, and inspiration needed to succeed.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Jim Castleman on his exemplary service in the Okaloosa County School District and wish him continued success during his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I regret that I could not be present today, Thursday, May 10, 2007 to vote on rollcall vote nos. 319, 320, 321, 322 and 323 due to a family medical situation.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall vote No. 319 on the amendment to H.R. 1873, that would require greater economic analyses by agencies on contracting actions that displace small businesses, and close current loopholes that have allowed agencies to avoid performing analyses on new work and construction; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 320 on the amendment to H.R. 1873 that would extend small business contracting goals to overseas contracts; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 321 on the amendment to H.R. 1873 that would raise the government-wide small business procurement goal from 25 percent to 30 percent; "nay" on rollcall vote No. 322 on the motion to recommit H.R. 1873 with instructions; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 323 on final passage of H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, I was not present to vote due to a family medical situation. I submitted for the record my votes had I been present. The RECORD incorrectly listed an "aye" on rollcall vote No. 315 on the amendment to H.R. 1684 that would remove section 407 of the bill, which requires that identification cards, uniforms, protective gear and badges of Homeland Security personnel be manufactured in the United States. I would like the record to reflect that I submitted a "nay" vote for rollcall No. 315.

 IN MEMORY OF THE PASSING OF
STEPHEN BRANSDORFER
HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Stephen Bransdorfer, who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on March 15, 2007 at age 77.

Mr. Bransdorfer lived a full and rewarding life as a dedicated public servant, highly esteemed attorney and loving husband. In his il-

lustrious career, he served as president of the State Bar of Michigan, was a deputy U.S. attorney general under President George H.W. Bush, and was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Mr. Bransdorfer was a scholarly man as well, graduating with law degrees from the University of Michigan Law School and Georgetown University. He also worked in the U.S. Justice Department following law school, and served as the public spokesman for the Department when the federal government ordered schools to integrate in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. His deep commitment and expertise in law left a lasting impact on our country, and his legacy is one all Americans should turn to as a model for professionalism, dedication and patriotism.

Mr. Bransdorfer was a noted lawyer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he practiced at the law firm of Miller, Johnson, Snell and Cummiskey. Later he formed his own firm with his sons. Mr. Bransdorfer was a devoted member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he worshipped with his family for many years.

Mr. Bransdorfer was an active civic leader in many areas of public life. He was very well known in my district for his committed public service, and his work with the Kent County Republican Party. He ran as a Republican for state attorney general, and put in many years of dedicated service as a leader in his church, his community, and the Republican Party.

We have lost a model citizen from my community, and I extend my most heartfelt condolences to his loving wife Peggy and his children, their spouses, and their children.