

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO C. MICHAEL BRIGHT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Committee on House Administration and of the Joint Committee on Printing, I want my colleagues to note that June 1, 2007, will mark the retirement of C. Michael Bright from Federal service following a dedicated career of 33 years at the Government Printing Office. Mike, as he is known, compiled an exemplary record of service at the GPO that benefited not only GPO's Federal-agency customers, the public seeking access to Government information, but Members and staff of the Congress as well.

Mike served most of his career in the GPO's Superintendent of Documents operation, which makes published Federal documents available to the public via sales and through Federal depository libraries nationwide. Beginning as an editor of GPO's sales catalog, he later worked as a marketing specialist for Government documents and then was the principal assistant to the Superintendent of Documents. Among the duties Mike performed from that post during the 1980's was service as GPO liaison to the Books Abroad program, a U.S. Information Agency initiative to expand distribution of Federal Government publications overseas to counter the Soviet Union's distribution of its publications.

Mike was a principal in helping to shape GPO's support for electronic information dissemination, later assisting Federal agencies in creating their own electronic information products through GPO, and for a time he served as an assistant to GPO's chief of staff. Most recently, as a congressional relations officer he was trusted by the staffs of the Joint Committee on Printing as well as other Member and committee offices to provide expert advice and assistance on GPO-related matters. In recognition of his accomplishments, over the years Mike earned both the Public Printer's distinguished service and meritorious service awards as well as the thanks of the congressional and agency staffs who worked with him.

Madam Speaker, please join the Members of the House Administration Committee and the Joint Committee on Printing in expressing their heartfelt thanks for Mike Bright's career of outstanding service to the Government Printing Office, and in extending their best wishes to Mike and his family—wife Susan and son Andrew—as Mike embarks on the next stage of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 21, 2007, I was unavoidably detained during official travel. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 384: "yes." On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 698.

Rollcall No. 385: "yes." On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1425.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID LONG,
RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPER-
INTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dr. David Long is one of these individuals. On Thursday, May 24, 2007, Dr. Long will be honored at a farewell dinner at the Riverside Convention Center.

Dr. Long is originally from Mason City, Iowa, and obtained his Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Over the years, Dr. Long has served as a classroom teacher, coach, principal, and district superintendent. He was elected Riverside County Superintendent of Schools in 1998. The Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) has 2,000 employees and a budget totaling more than \$260 million. RCOE is a service agency supporting the county's 23 local districts with training, fiscal support, and certain state mandated educational programs.

The Riverside County Office of Education has been dramatically improved by Dr. Long's innovation and dedication to excellence. Under his leadership, RCOE created the nationally recognized Riverside County Achievement Teams (RCAT), which have helped Riverside County outpace the state in improving test scores, and focused attention on specific issues that create problems for students.

Dr. Long has been active in both state and national arenas, serving as the President of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), and chairing the national Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Long has been honored as California Administrator of the Year by the National Or-

ganization of Partners in Education, Superintendent of the Year, and received the Governor's Award for school leadership. Dr. Long received the Inland Empire 2003 Entrepreneur of the Year award for his innovative approach to raising student achievement through the Riverside County Achievement Teams. Dr. Long is also the recipient of the prestigious Marcus Foster Memorial Award from the Association of California School Administrators for outstanding leadership and significant contributions to public education by a school administrator.

Dr. Long was recently selected by Gov. Schwarzenegger to serve as California's Secretary of Education and the Governor could not have picked a more qualified individual. Dr. Long's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside and the entire State of California. Dr. Long has been the heart and soul of Riverside County education and he will be sorely missed. I know that so many community members and leaders are grateful for his service and salute him as he moves on to the next stage of his career. On behalf of Representatives Lewis, Bono and Issa, I also add my expression of admiration and appreciation to Dr. Long for his outstanding service to our children and our community. We wish him the best of luck and all blessings in his new position.

HONORING HURRICANE, WV
MAYOR F. RAYMOND PEAK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, today, I have the distinct privilege to recognize a man of remarkable vision and unyielding commitment to the community of Hurricane, WV.

Mr. Peak is a native of Dakota, WV, where he began his career of public service in the school patrol. His family relocated to Putnam County in 1948.

In 1951, Mr. Peak was elected to his first public position in Hurricane as city recorder, which he held for 4 years. The job came right after graduation from Morris Harvey College, now the University of Charleston.

In 1957, Mr. Peak ran for the office of mayor pledging to build a city Hall. He accomplished that promise in two construction phases with no long-term indebtedness to the citizens.

Mr. Peak served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1973 to 1977. In his desire to see small towns and cities grow, he was instrumental in the organization of the West Virginia Municipal League and served as president and he was a charter board member of the Regional Intergovernmental Council, serving twice as Chairman.

Peak has been a mentor to young people in the Hurricane community for several generations, as a math and business teacher, band

• 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.

instructor and girl's basketball coach at Hurricane High School. He was always available to read aloud in the elementary schools and to attend extracurricular events to recognize students.

Serving the community as mayor of Hurricane for 40 years, recently Mr. Peak has brought about a new \$1.8 million municipal complex, a \$10.6 million upgrade to the regional wastewater treatment facility, and water improvements to a system that has received the 2006 Drinking Silver Award.

Perhaps Mr. Peak's greatest accomplishment is his bond he unwaveringly nourishes with his family. Mayor Peak and his wife, Gloria, are enjoying a marriage of 52 years. They are blessed with three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Through the leadership of Mayor F. Raymond Peak, the city of Hurricane has experienced growth and prosperity. His good works have been enjoyed by generations past and will continue to benefit generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me and the community in expressing our thanks and to honor Mr. Peak's accomplishments and commitment to public service. His commendable service serves as an attribute which we should all strive to emulate as we attempt to make the world a better place. As he leaves the mayor's office, we extend our best wishes for joy and happiness in the months and years ahead.

HONORING REVEREND FREDERICK
"JERRY" STREETS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community leaders who have gathered to pay tribute to one of New Haven's most outstanding religious leaders and one of my friends, Reverend Frederick "Jerry" Streets. There is no doubt that Reverend Streets has touched the lives of many in the Yale community and beyond. Though he will be missed, the legacy he leaves will continue to inspire others for years to come.

Today marks the end of an era as we bid farewell to a real community treasure. Reverend Streets, the first African-American and Baptist to hold the position of University chaplain, will conclude 15 years of service to Yale since being appointed to this position in 1992. Under the University's term limit rules for chaplaincy, he must now pass on his legacy to a newly appointed chaplain. Reverend Streets' commitment to service through religious leadership has been unwavering and his involvement, not only with his chaplaincy and pastoral duties at Yale, but with his congregation at University Church, has been essential to its spiritual growth and prosperity. He expanded the multi-faith dialogue at Yale and had a deep sense of his social responsibility to the surrounding residents of the New Haven community.

During his tenure, Reverend Streets did spear-head a rapid growth of religious diversity within the student population. His natural gravitation toward tolerance for all ethnicities and religious freedoms began as a boy grow-

ing up on the South Side of Chicago. Here, amid much diversity, he learned the need for acceptance of others which shaped his character and influenced his professional life. Perhaps best known for his development of Yale's undergraduate multi-faith council—a group with faiths ranging from Protestant to Baha'i—he promoted discussions between students of different faiths and helped other chaplains to grasp an understanding of a diverse student population.

In addition to his work in our community, Reverend Streets has represented Yale across the globe by lecturing or presenting workshops on issues of global justice and mental health. He has traveled worldwide to places such as Bosnia, Cuba, and West Africa, and served as a delegate to the first global conference of religious leaders to convene at the United Nations.

As a spiritual guide, he has nourished the souls of many—often providing much needed comfort in the hardest of personal trials. It was evident through his work that he had a strong devotion and compassion to helping many Yale students restore their faith and bring a sense of balance back to their lives. There is no better example of living faith with commitment and dignity. He will be sorely missed and we cannot thank him enough.

It is with great pride that I stand today to join his wife Annette, his children, family, friends, and the Yale community to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Reverend Jerry Streets for all of the good work he has done. May God bless him and keep him well as he continues in his mission of peace, compassion, hope and tolerance.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF VAL McCOMBIE, FORMER AM-
BASSADOR OF BARBADOS AND
FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE ORGANISA-
TION OF AMERICAN STATES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to a great man, Ambassador Val McCombie, of Barbados and to enter into the record an article from Carib News by Tony Best titled, Diplomat Who Paved The Way For Others. He passed away after a lengthy illness and was funeralized on May 9, 2007.

Val McCombie inspired me in so many ways. He was a man who had a commanding presence, but was not commanding at all. He was powerful, but gentle. Further, he was well respected, articulate, and giving.

Serving as a public servant was the calling on his life. Early in his career, he spent a great deal of his time teaching French and Spanish to young people. Pursuing the desire to represent the people of Barbados, he became the Ambassador to the United States. Serving as an ambassador provided him an awesome opportunity to bridge a gap between Caribbean nations and Latin American nations. His great ability to lead and serve paved the way for other public servants, some of which he mentored.

I'm honored to have known him and feel blessed to have had the opportunity to learn

from such a dignified man. I urge young people and my colleagues to learn more about his life and contribution to Barbados.

DIPLOMAT WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR OTHERS
(By Tony Best)

Two diplomats who took turns occupying the same Ambassadorial office offered different assessments of the man who had set the standard they later followed. "He built a career strengthening relationships" between CARICOM and "the rest of Latin America," said Michael King, Barbados' current top diplomat to the U.S. and the Organization of American States.

Sir Courtney Blackman, King's immediate predecessor, succinctly summed up the diplomat's career in a different way. "He was an Ambassador's Ambassador," said Sir Courtney. Both men were reflecting on the life and career of Valerie Theodore McCombie, Barbados' first resident Ambassador in Washington, who later became the first person from the English-speaking Caribbean to be elected Assistant Secretary-General of the OAS, a position he held from 1980-1990. McCombie died in Washington on Friday after a lengthy illness.

Called "Val" by his friends and colleagues, the linguist and educator who once taught French and Spanish to students in Barbados and St. Kitts-Nevis, English to Venezuelans and French-speaking students in Martinique and France and both languages to Americans and Ghanaians in high schools in the U.S. and Africa used his facility with language to advance the Caribbean's cause on the international stage. He did that during a diplomatic career that began in 1967 and ended in the early 1990s.

Along the way, he served as Barbados' Ambassador in Caracas, the first diplomat from the country to do so; its non-resident envoy to Brazil; and Alternate-Governor to the Inter-American Development Bank.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago on April 1, 1920, McCombie received his early education in his birthplace and Barbados, before he went on to London University in England which awarded him a Bachelor's degree in mediaeval and modern languages; and later the University of Bordeaux in France and the University of California at Los Angeles. As Barbados' first resident Ambassador in Washington McCombie was his country's eyes and ears in the U.S. capital and in Latin America at a time when Caribbean nations were just beginning to extend their diplomatic links to Latin America.

Whether it was at the OAS headquarters or along ambassador's row, McCombie was at home, so to speak. "He had a tremendous presence and in any room he stood out, tall, handsome and very comfortable with strangers," Sir Courtney said. But even more than that, he earned the respect of the Latins, who were skeptical of the interest of the small English-speaking nations with a British orientation were showing in the OAS, first with Trinidad and Tobago's membership in the Western Hemisphere body. Next was Barbados. "The respect was tremendous and it came from all of the ambassadors and their governments," added Sir Courtney who served in Washington in the 1990s. "It was that respect that enabled him to become the Assistant Secretary-General of the OAS."

By any objective assessment, McCombie performed his OAS duties with aplomb, ever mindful though of the gap in influence between the Secretary-General and the Assistant. Still, he paved the way for Chris Thomas, the Trinidad and Tobago diplomat, who succeeded him. His ability to play the diplomatic game with ease and his record of getting results allowed him to serve as a role model for many of the young people in the Caribbean who aspired to diplomatic careers.

“He was a pioneer in our foreign service and a driving force behind our membership in the OAS in 1967 and he ably performed the duties of Ambassador in Venezuela when we opened a mission in Caracas in 1974,” said King. “He was a mentor to many people. He was able to use his brilliance as a teacher to encourage many young diplomats to develop their careers in the area of representation.”

Less than four years ago at a ceremony in which he was being awarded the Order of Christopher Columbus by the Dominican Republic, Luigi R. Einaudi, at the time the OAS Assistant Secretary-General, described McComie as a visionary, who like Columbus “sailed uncharted waters, who came to harbors that became the ports and bridges of the future.” But it was Barbados’ Prime Minister, Owen Arthur, who best summed up McComie record, when he told the OAS General Assembly in Barbados in 2002 that “his contribution as an educator in Barbados and St. Kitts-Nevis helped to encourage many key decision-makers in newly independent states to become more aware of our Latin neighbors at a time when political contact could have been said to be almost non-existent.”

Little wonder, then, that the Barbados leader, speaking for the entire Caribbean told him “Val, we all owe you debt of gratitude for having the foresight of and appreciation for the value of cross-cultural contact.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 21, 2007, I was unable to vote on roll No. 384 and No. 385 as a result of my flight, US Airways #3088, being delayed 65 minutes. Had I been present, I would have voted “Yes” on both.

RECOGNIZING RAINDROP TURKEVI FOUNDATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Raindrop Turkevi Foundation of Dallas, TX.

As a non-profit, relatively new organization, the Raindrop Turkevi Foundation of Dallas is committed to facilitating common ground amongst diverse communities and assisting Turkish Americans in the Dallas area. The Foundation provides Turkish Americans with various resources in order for them to prosper socially and culturally.

In regard to education, the Raindrop Turkevi Foundation hosts various cultural scholarship opportunities and creates programs that benefit the Turkish-American Youth, such as K-12 and SAT tutoring, ESL classes, Turkish classes, and college advising. As for social development, the foundation holds conferences that promote diversity.

In collaboration with various local entities, the Raindrop Turkevi Foundation hosts meaningful events as well. It sponsors and cosponsors ethnic picnics and organizes athletic

events for children, such as weekly soccer games.

All in all, this organization’s benevolent objectives and current exploits make it an invaluable member to the Dallas area. The Raindrop Turkevi Foundation has playing an integral part in aiding the success of the Turkish American population and unionizing different communities in Texas.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize and commend Raindrop Turkevi of Dallas for accepting all ethnicities and for their leadership and hard work in the Dallas community as well as in the great State of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on May 21, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall 384 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 698) “aye”; and

Rollcall 385 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—H.R. 4096)—“aye.”

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, recently, the House considered legislation to reauthorize the Community Oriented Police, COPS, program. Unfortunately, this bill was brought up for consideration with no opportunity to amend and improve the bill. Rather than allowing an open discussion and amendment process, it was a take it or leave it choice that Members were given.

In reauthorizing this program little has been done to address the glaring shortcomings of the program as pointed out in audits by The Department of Justice Office of Inspector General, OIG, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, and other independent analyses—including one by the USA Today newspaper. Before tripling a program that the Office of Management and Budget has graded as “Not Performing: Results Not Demonstrated,” members should have been given an opportunity to consider amendments aimed at improving this bill. This is particularly important at a time when the size of the program is being tripled from an appropriation of about \$540 million in 2007 to nearly \$1.5 billion within 5 years.

These audits point out that New York City, the largest recipient of COPS funding—\$422 million—actually has 300 fewer officers today than they did before they received \$422 in Federal tax dollars. In 1994, New York City had 36,693 officers, yet by 2004 this had dropped by 321 officers to 36,372. The audit shows that Miami, while receiving over \$45 million, increased their police force by only 21 officers. That works out to over \$2 million per officer according to the audit.

Since the creation of this program in 1994, over \$13 billion has been spent on the COPS program. While some of that funding has been well spent, I am concerned that audits determined that, at a minimum, hundreds of millions of dollars were misspent. We have a responsibility to the taxpayers to make sure that the money that the Federal Government takes from them is not misspent.

Analyses showed that in spite of spending \$6 billion dollars in the first 6 years of the program, COPS fell short of placing 100,000 police on the streets. While the GAO found that the shortfall was about 12 percent, when you factor in historical hiring trends, the number of new police on the streets is far less. In fact, the Heritage Foundation analysis found when these historical police hiring trends are accounted for, the actual number of new police on the street nationwide is somewhere between 7,000 and 39,000—less than half of what was promised.

While the COPS grants were not supposed to supplant local funds, the U.S. Department of Justice OIG audit of expenditures found that grant recipients routinely supplanted local funding with COPS grants: simply allowing the Federal Government to pick up the tab for what they otherwise would have and should have paid for. The OIG audit of 147 high-risk grants found that 41 percent used the COPS grant to supplant local funds.

An investigative report by USA Today found in an audit of 3 percent of COPS grants that \$277 million was misspent and “tens of thousands of jobs funded by the grants were never filled, or weren’t filled for long.” This is particularly concerning given that my constituents, who happen to be net donors to this program, receive less than half of their equitable share of Federal COPS grants.

Finally, the purpose of the COPS program was to reduce crime. While many of the grant recipients saw a reduction in crime, a USA Today analysis found that crime fell at the same rates in communities that did not get COPS grants.

So, before we all embrace a bill that triples the size of this program, we should first make sure that we are being responsible with taxpayer dollars and getting the most out of every dollar. I am not sure the bill before us does that.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1427) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1427 fails to address the core problems with the Government Sponsored Enterprises, GSEs. Furthermore, since this legislation creates new government programs that will further artificially increase the demand for housing, H.R. 1427 increases the economic damage that will occur from the bursting of the housing bubble.

The main problem with the GSEs is the special privileges the Federal Government gives the GSEs. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the housing-related GSEs received almost 20 billion dollars worth of indirect Federal subsidies in fiscal year 2004 alone, while Wayne Passmore of the Federal Reserve estimates the value of the GSE's Federal subsidies to be between \$122 and \$182 billion dollars.

One of the major privileges the Federal Government grants to the GSEs is a line of credit from the United States Treasury. According to some estimates, the line of credit may be worth over 2 billion dollars. GSEs also benefit from an explicit grant of legal authority given to the Federal Reserve to purchase the debt of the GSEs. GSEs are the only institutions besides the United States Treasury granted explicit statutory authority to monetize their debt through the Federal Reserve. This provision gives the GSEs a source of liquidity unavailable to their competitors.

This implicit promise by the Government to bail out the GSEs in times of economic difficulty helps the GSEs attract investors who are willing to settle for lower yields than they would demand in the absence of the subsidy. Thus, the line of credit distorts the allocation of capital. More importantly, the line of credit is a promise on behalf of the Government to engage in a massive unconstitutional and immoral income transfer from working Americans to holders of GSE debt.

The connection between the GSEs and the Government helps isolate the GSEs' managements from market discipline. This isolation from market discipline is the root cause of the mismanagement occurring at Fannie and Freddie. After all, if investors did not believe that the Federal Government would bail out Fannie and Freddie if the GSEs faced financial crises, then investors would have forced the GSEs to provide assurances that the GSEs are following accepted management and accounting practices before investors would consider Fannie and Freddie to be good investments.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has expressed concern that the government subsidies provided to the GSEs makes investors underestimate the risk of investing in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Although he has endorsed many of the regulatory "solutions" being considered here today, Chairman Greenspan has implicitly admitted the subsidies are the true source of the problems with Fannie and Freddie.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1427 compounds these problems by further insulating the GSEs from market discipline. By creating a "world-class" regulator, Congress would send a signal to investors that investors need not concern themselves with investigating the financial health and stability of Fannie and Freddie since a "world-class" regulator is performing that function.

However, one of the forgotten lessons of the financial scandals of a few years ago is that the market is superior at discovering and punishing fraud and other misbehavior than are government regulators. After all, the market discovered, and began to punish, the accounting irregularities of Enron before the government regulators did.

Concerns have been raised about the new regulator's independence from the Treasury Department. This is more than a bureaucratic

"turf battle" as there are legitimate worries that isolating the regulator from Treasury oversight may lead to regulatory capture. Regulatory capture occurs when regulators serve the interests of the businesses they are supposed to be regulating instead of the public interest. While H.R. 1427 does have some provisions that claim to minimize the risk of regulatory capture, regulatory capture is always a threat where regulators have significant control over the operations of an industry. After all, the industry obviously has a greater incentive than any other stakeholder to influence the behavior of the regulator.

The flip side of regulatory capture is that managers and owners of highly subsidized and regulated industries are more concerned with pleasing the regulators than with pleasing consumers or investors, since the industries know that investors will believe all is well if the regulator is happy. Thus, the regulator and the regulated industry may form a symbiosis where each looks out for the other's interests while ignoring the concerns of investors.

Furthermore, my colleagues should consider the constitutionality of an "independent regulator." The Founders provided for three branches of government—an executive, a judiciary, and a legislature. Each branch was created as sovereign in its sphere, and there were to be clear lines of accountability for each branch. However, independent regulators do not fit comfortably within the three branches; nor are they totally accountable to any branch. Regulators at these independent agencies often make judicial-like decisions, but they are not part of the judiciary. They often make rules, similar to the ones regarding capital requirements, that have the force of law, but independent regulators are not legislative. And, of course, independent regulators enforce the laws in the same way, as do other parts of the executive branch; yet independent regulators lack the day-to-day accountability to the executive that provides a check on other regulators.

Thus, these independent regulators have a concentration of powers of all three branches and lack direct accountability to any of the democratically chosen branches of government. This flies in the face of the Founders' opposition to concentrations of power and government bureaucracies that lack accountability. These concerns are especially relevant considering the remarkable degree of power and autonomy this bill gives to the regulator. For example, in the scheme established by H.R. 1427 the regulator's budget is not subject to appropriations. This removes a powerful mechanism for holding the regulator accountable to Congress. While the regulator is accountable to a board of directors, this board may conduct all deliberations in private because it is not subject to the Sunshine Act.

Ironically, by transferring the risk of widespread mortgage defaults to the taxpayers through Government subsidies and convincing investors that all is well because a "world-class" regulator is ensuring the GSEs' soundness, the Government increases the likelihood of a painful crash in the housing market. This is because the special privileges of Fannie and Freddie have distorted the housing market by allowing Fannie and Freddie to attract capital they could not attract under pure market conditions. As a result, capital is diverted from its most productive uses into housing. This reduces the efficacy of the entire market and

thus reduces the standard of living of all Americans.

Despite the long-term damage to the economy inflicted by the Government's interference in the housing market, the Government's policy of diverting capital into housing creates a short-term boom in housing. Like all artificially created bubbles, the boom in housing prices cannot last forever. When housing prices fall, homeowners will experience difficulty as their equity is wiped out. Furthermore, the holders of the mortgage debt will also have a loss. These losses will be greater than they would have been had government policy not actively encouraged overinvestment in housing.

H.R. 1427 further distorts the housing market by artificially inflating the demand for housing through the creation of a national housing trust fund. This fund further diverts capital to housing that, absent Government intervention, would be put to a use more closely matching the demands of consumers. Thus, this new housing program will reduce efficacy and create yet another unconstitutional redistribution program.

Perhaps the Federal Reserve can stave off the day of reckoning by purchasing the GSEs' debt and pumping liquidity into the housing market, but this cannot hold off the inevitable drop in the housing market forever. In fact, postponing the necessary and painful market corrections will only deepen the inevitable fall. The more people are invested in the market, the greater the effects across the economy when the bubble bursts.

Instead of addressing Government policies encouraging the misallocation of resources to the housing market, H.R. 1427 further introduces distortion into the housing market by expanding the authority of Federal regulators to approve the introduction of new products by the GSEs. Such regulation inevitability delays the introduction of new innovations to the market, or even prevents some potentially valuable products from making it to the market. Of course, these new regulations are justified in part by the GSEs' government subsidies. We once again see how one bad intervention in the market (the GSEs' government subsidies) leads to another (the new regulations).

In conclusion, H.R. 1427 compounds the problems with the GSEs and may increase the damage that will be inflicted by a bursting of the housing bubble. This is because this bill creates a new unaccountable regulator and introduces further distortions into the housing market via increased regulatory power. H.R. 1427 also violates the Constitution by creating yet another unaccountable regulator with quasi-executive, judicial, and legislative powers. Instead of expanding unconstitutional and market distorting government bureaucracies, Congress should act to remove taxpayer support from the housing GSEs before the bubble bursts and taxpayers are once again forced to bailout investors who were misled by foolish Government interference in the market.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 21, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos.

384 and 385. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

CONGRATULATING THE
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GATORS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Florida Gators for winning the 2007 men's basketball NCAA championship title.

After a hard fought season and tournament, the Florida Gator men's basketball team proved victorious, on April 2, 2007, with a dazzling 84-75 triumph over the Ohio State University Buckeyes.

I want to extend special congratulations to Florida's head coach, Billy Donovan, who trained this team to be the best in the country. All of the athletes are shining stars for the university and deserve our highest praise.

This year, the men's basketball team made history by becoming the first school to win back to back championships since 1992. The Florida Gators also maintain a record as the only university in history to win simultaneous championships in both men's basketball and football.

Florida's academic reputation is stellar, our sports teams are number one and our fans are like none other.

Madam Speaker, it is great to be a Florida Gator! Congratulations to the students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the University of Florida. Go Gators!

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAY EAGEN

HON. JOHN A. BOEHRNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. BOEHRNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Jay Eagen, this body's Chief Administrative Officer, upon his retirement. Mr. Eagen has served with distinction in this executive capacity since July 31, 1997, and has been in continual service to the House since 1982. As Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Eagen was responsible for managing this body's support services, finances, procurement, and information technology.

Mr. Eagen faced head-on the rapid rise of computer technology in the 1990s that forever changed the worlds of business and government. Through Mr. Eagen's persistence the House's information systems were modernized and placed at the cutting edge of public sector information services.

Mr. Eagen's efforts to modernize the House also extended to financial accounting and auditing. Before his tenure as CAO, the House's accounting systems were found to be byzantine and indecipherable. During Mr. Eagen's tenure, the House has received eight consecutive "clean opinions" on its financial statements.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Eagen, a dedicated public servant who always operated with the highest standards of professionalism and re-

spect for this House. His commitment to improving this institution's services have made a critical difference as we meet the demands of a changing marketplace and in meeting the American public's desire for information and transparency. This body will miss Mr. Eagen's fairness and bipartisanship as well as his spirit of innovation.

PREAKNESS DELIVERS THREE
FLORIDA CHAMPIONS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to announce that the winner of the recent Preakness Stakes, along with those horses that placed and showed (came in second and third, respectively), all have strong ties to stables in my district.

Street Sense and Hard Spun, who placed second and third respectively, were both broken and received elementary training at Ocala training centers. As if this were not enough cause for celebration, Curlin, the victor of the Preakness Stakes, is partially owned by Padua Stable, also in Ocala. Satish Sanan, a computer CEO, founded Padua Stable in 1997, choosing the Ocala location for its pristine pastures and renowned reputation among horse enthusiasts.

Curlin's story is especially unique. Though entering the competition for the Kentucky Derby after only three career starts, Curlin was an unlikely early favorite due to his victory in the Arkansas Derby in which he crushed eight foes and won by 10½ lengths.

Shirley Cunningham, Jr., a lawyer hailing from Georgetown, is one of Curlin's former owners, and it is from his family history that the horse's name is derived. Cunningham's great-grandfather, Charlie Curlin, is a legend in the area in and around Trigg County, Kentucky due to his service on behalf of the U.S. Colored Troops battalion of the Union Army in 1864. Curlin, a freed slave, represented the hallmark American ideal of service to one's country, fighting nobly to make freedom a reality for all United States citizens. Thus, in winning the Preakness Stakes, and putting forth a gallant effort in the Kentucky Derby, Curlin the horse is carrying the family history, serving as a reminder to all of the benefits of perseverance and faith in one's cause.

Though Curlin, Street Sense, and Hard Spun are more prominent examples of success derived from Ocala stables, the city's strong reputation in equine breeding and training is by no means new or rare. Ocala, within Marion County, is considered the "Horse Capital of the World" by the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association. In 1995, Ocala was named an All-America-City winner, due largely in part to its reputation for expansive and well-kept pastureland. More than 450 farms and training centers in the Marion County area are devoted to breeding, training, and showing breeds such as the thoroughbred, Arabian, quarter horses, and even draft horses. The USDA's Census of Agriculture reported that Marion led all U.S. counties in total number of horses and ponies in residence in 1997, cut-off year for the 5-year census. Furthermore, the county ranked third nationally

(behind two counties in Kentucky) in total value of horses sold. Horses are big business in Marion County. Between 45 and 50 different breeds are represented in the area. Nearly 29,000 residents are employed in the county's thoroughbred industry alone. Florida thoroughbreds finish first in 20 percent of the foremost stakes races in the U.S. and are counted among Triple Crown, Breeders' Cup, Belmont Stakes, Preakness and Kentucky Derby winners. The thoroughbred industry's economic impact on the state is considered to be in excess of \$1 billion dollars annually, and the exciting horse sales at the Ocala Breeder's Sales Complex run into the millions.

One cannot visit Marion County without becoming immediately aware of the impact the horse industry has on the area. This is currently evidenced by the enthusiasm exhibited by many of my constituents in having not one, but three horses sweep the top spots in the Preakness Stakes. I believe that this much-celebrated victory will serve to further illustrate the excellence of stables and breeders in Marion County and Ocala, and encourage others in the industry to consider the area as a future home for both their horses and their families.

Finally, I am honored to be the new cochair of the Congressional Horse Caucus, and I look forward to cochairing with Representative BEN CHANDLER of Kentucky. Many may not realize the magnitude of the equine industry and its importance to our national, state and local economies. It is a diverse industry, involving business, agriculture, sport, entertainment, gaming and recreation, and we hope Members will join the Caucus.

By the way: I have stood on this House Floor three times in the past year to herald national victories from the University of Florida in my district—twice for Men's Basketball championships, and January for the 2006 Bowl Championship in football. I suspect my colleagues will begin to find me immodest if I keep bragging and offering resolutions on my winning constituent athletes, both human and equine.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT
GRADUATES OF WOODCLIFF
LAKE'S D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Woodcliff Lake Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Dorchester School. More than 100 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Woodcliff Lake, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Erica Aborleile, Samantha Acciardi, Stephanie Alberti, Jillian Anderson, Houssein Assi, Sydney Badway, Mark Bannon, Jasmine Barkley, Sigourney Barman, Daniel Bazzini, Michael Benducci, Jacob Bloom, Thomas Cahill, Kenneth Caspert, Neil Chopra, Romy Conrad, Arie1 Danziger, Julie DiPiazza, Victoria Eichenlaub, Gregory Fassuliotis, Jake Fischer, Kelly Gao, Austin Gebbia, Julie Gerstley, Jake Goldstein, Jonah Gould, Samara Gould, Ross Greenberg, Connor Hammalian, Dylan Herman, Alexa Hirschberg, Magdaline Hurtado, Randi Ivler, Susan Janowsky, Ian Johnson, Mark Kaplan, Rebecca Karpinos, Joshua Katsnelson, Jake Kessel, Jonathan Lam, Mila Lam, Jordan Lazarus, Jamie Lee, Caroline Lerche, Eric Li, Amanda Lindefield, Samantha Livingstone, Frank Lomia, Jerry Lubrano, Alexandra Mangino, Raymond Maresca, Christina Masciale, Jacquelyn Michaels, Liana Mino, Taylor Muller, Andrew Nathin, Olivia Nikol, Olivia Novak, Nicole O'Brien, Noah Panagia, Lindsay Panagia, Alexis Pearlman, Michael Pierro, Lucas Pontillo, Frank Purritano, Michael Raevsky, Jason Rosen, Jonathan Rosenberg, Taylor Rosenblatt, Angela Rossi, Lena Safron, Robert Sarakin, Sydney Schlicher, Michelle Schumacher, Matthew Shafran, Matthew Sherman, Jared Siegel, Brian Silver, Alec Silverman, Marc Solomon, Max Spelling, Jacob Sperber, Rachel Spiro, Gregory Steiger, Ethan Strauss, Kayla Strick, Ryan Stroud, Michael Tortora, William Trumbetti, Jackie Tsontakis, Noah Tucker, Daniel Velez, Philip Volkov, Sean Wang, Justin Weinfeld, Nicholas Weingartner, Sara Wexler, Austin Willock, Devon Willock, Benjamin Wolfin, Amy Yakomin, Bernard Yannelli.

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY EDWARD
BARTLETT, A TRUE FRIEND

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, there is an old saying in Washington, DC, that goes: if you want a friend, then you better get a dog. While Nancy, the kids and I did just get a dog, I have long considered myself lucky enough to have been in the Circle of Friends with Timothy Edward Bartlett. For that I thank him.

And for those of us who knew Tim, friend is the word that comes to mind when we think of him. He embodied the word and gave it greater meaning. He was more than a person you knew and liked. He was a person who inspired, excelled and, despite returning to God much too soon, he lived a full life.

Tim's obituary read in part that he was passing "into an eternal community without limits." It will be the second such home he lives in, for Tim never allowed himself to be restrained. In that sense he was Myrna and Ed Bartlett's son. He took risks and was rewarded and as a result he set out and not only lived in his own home, but gave others the courage to do the same; he was active in his faith and improved our community; and his adventures led him to see and learn things many only dream about.

I remember one such trip to our Nation's capital. It was my great pleasure to show Tim the U.S. House of Representatives, where he

was able to see the House Chamber firsthand. In fact, Tim came away from that experience with more than just a view of how laws are made, he came away with the Speaker's gavel. In all of my years serving in the House, no one but Tim has ever managed that.

And, while the Good Lord has gaveled Tim's session here on earth to a close, he remains my Friend; he remains an inspiration to us all. It is with deep sadness I say goodbye to my Friend, Timothy Edward Bartlett.

Lord, as many others did, I knew and liked this man. I know You will do the same. May You keep him close and may his spirit light your community of angels as he lit ours.

HONORING GLORIA LYNNE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to the lifetime artistic achievements of singer Gloria Lynne, an outstanding vocalist whose unique style and sound has blurred the distinctions among pop, jazz, and blues.

Born Gloria Alleyne in the Harlem section of New York City on November 23, 1931, Gloria Lynne compensated for a bleak domestic life of poverty by absorbing everything she could of the city's vibrant night life. Exposed to gospel music at a young age by her mother, Lynne quickly graduated from singing at home to singing in the local African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church's choir. However, it was Lynne's first place performance at the Apollo Theater's Amateur Night, at the age of 15, which introduced America to her unique and impressive ability to tell stories that leaves audiences spellbound.

Twelve years later, in 1958, after singing with groups like the Dell-Tones and Enchanters, Ms. Lynne signed with Everest Records and began her solo career. This marked the beginning of her most prolific period: between 1958 and 1963 she cut 10 records and had hits with "I Wish You Love" (a song she virtually made a standard) and "I'm Glad There Is You." "I Wish You Love" not only became a signature song for Lynne, it sold in the millions and was the first song to become a hit on the jazz, rhythm & blues and pop music charts at the same time. Her popularity during this time enabled her to work with many of jazz's greatest masters, teaming up with musicians like Ray Charles, Billy Eckstine, Ella Fitzgerald, Quincy Jones, Harry Belafonte and others, as well as co-writing "Watermelon Man" with Herbie Hancock and "All Day Long" with Kenny Burrell.

Gloria Lynne continues to perform before enthusiastic audiences. She was a special honoree at the Apollo's 2006 Amateur Night Celebration and recently performed to sold-out crowds at Dizzy's Coca Cola Room at New York's Lincoln Center for 5 consecutive nights. Ms. Lynne performed before a standing-room-only audience in May 2005 in Washington, DC at the 1,200-seat Historic Lincoln Theater in Washington, DC as part of Jazz in Southwest. She performed at the Kennedy Center's Women in Jazz Festival in 2003; and also in 2003, she received the National Treasure Award from the Seasoned Citizens Theatre Or-

ganization. She has been inducted into the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame. She is also the recipient of The Rhythm & Blues Foundation's Pioneer Award in honor of her lasting contributions to the music world. In 1996, she received the International Women of Jazz Award. On April 7, 2007, she received the Living Legend Award from the State of Pennsylvania.

Teaming up with her son, Richard Alleyne, a writer and producer, Lynne also helps run their production company, Family Bread Music, Inc.

On May 23, 2007, Ms. Lynne will be returning to Washington, DC to receive a tribute from the Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation for her contributions to jazz. I am pleased to take this opportunity to add my voice to theirs and congratulate Gloria Lynne on her long and fruitful career. I wish her many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2007, I was detained in my district due to a family emergency and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor for H.R. 698 (Roll No. 384) and H.R. 1425 (Roll No. 385). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both measures.

TRIBUTE TO THE GUILD OF SAINT
AGNES AND EDWARD MADAUS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Guild of Saint Agnes, an extraordinary childcare organization headquartered in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. Later this evening the very talented and dedicated staff members of the Guild will be recognized for their contributions to the success of this agency at an employee appreciation dinner. Due to scheduled roll callvotes, I am unable to attend that event but wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank the staff of the Guild for the exceptional care they provide to more than 1,100 children and families all across central Massachusetts.

As the father of a young son and daughter, I know full well the love, patience and understanding it takes to care for children. While the demands are often great, the rewards are more often times immeasurable. Each and every employee of the Guild should be commended for the profoundly positive influence they have had and are having on the scores of young boys and girls in their care. Nothing we debate in this body is as important as the future we give our young people and the good work of the people at the Guild of Saint Agnes must not go unnoticed by Congress.

Madam Speaker, I believe it is also equally important on this occasion that we in the U.S. House of Representatives take notice of the

visionary leadership the Guild of Saint Agnes has enjoyed these past 14 years. Notwithstanding the Guild's proud history, the organization has prospered and thrived like no other in the region under the skilled and expert stewardship of Ed Madaus. As Executive Director of the Guild, Ed has transformed the agency into the most widely-known and highly-regarded childcare provider in greater Worcester County. In addition to growing the annual operating budget of the Guild from \$1 million to \$9 million, Ed has led the organization through the rigorous process of having all of its childcare centers fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. He has also built successful partnerships with the Worcester Public Schools and other area school districts to provide after-school care for countless working families. Ed has long understood the intrinsic connection between early childhood education and child development, and was the primary proponent for seeking the highly-competitive 21st Century grant to better connect parents and children to their schools. Perhaps most impressive among Ed's numerous achievements at the Guild has been his steadfast refusal to ignore the pressing needs of the most vulnerable children in our midst. He has aggressively pursued childcare placements for children who might otherwise find themselves in foster care and thereby given stability and hope to an untold number of families struggling to remain intact.

Not satisfied to do right by just the Guild's clients, Ed has also instituted a number of employee benefit programs as Executive Director. At his insistence, the Guild established a 100 percent tuition assistance program to encourage staff members to further their education and training in early childhood development and teaching. Today, one-third of the Guild's employees are enrolled in college. The success of that program reflects Ed's own lifelong commitment to learning. A graduate of Holy Cross College, Ed holds both a master's degree in Education from Worcester State College and a second master's degree in Social Work from Boston College.

Madam Speaker, in my 10 years in Congress I have seldom encountered a more consummate professional and decent human being than Ed Madaus. In the tradition of Marian Wright Edelman, the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Ed Madaus has time and again proven himself to be a fierce, unrelenting and committed advocate for children. Whether at the state's Department of Social Services or as Executive Director for the Guild of Saint Agnes, Ed has surpassed that test made famous by Wright Edelman when she said, "If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much."

Madam Speaker, in closing, I humbly ask that today we in the U.S. House of Representatives stand up to publicly thank Edward Madaus for his lifetime of devoted service to our nation's children and, in particular, for his leadership at the Guild of Saint Agnes. He deserves our admiration, respect and gratitude for a career spent in the most noble cause of all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALL MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF VALLEY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to The Hall Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Valley, Alabama, which is celebrating their 82nd Anniversary on May 27, 2007.

In 1866, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church allowed African Americans to have their own congregations. Many years later, in 1925, Hall Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was founded.

In 1941 Hall Memorial CME was rebuilt after a devastating fire, and in 1969, was remodeled. With dedicated pastors and a committed congregation, the church has grown and prospered over the years. The pastor there now is Rev. Pierre K. Primm.

I am pleased to recognize the members of The Hall Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Valley, Alabama, today for reaching this important milestone in the history of Valley, and congratulate the church family on their 82nd Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO REV. THOMAS CHARLES

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. JINDAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Thomas Charles French, Jr., for his 49-year service to the congregation of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Reverend French, who retired this May, departs from a pastorship he has held since Jefferson Baptist's founding. In the five decades since; he has overseen its growth from a mere 17 members to nearly 1,500, has played an active role in the Southern Baptist Convention, has developed a television ministry program in collaboration with his church, and has ministered to four generations of some of the families at Jefferson Baptist.

Though officially he is retired, Reverend French will continue to serve the community on various governing boards in Louisiana. He also will act as Jefferson Baptist's pastor emeritus after a new pastor is found. I know that even in retirement, Reverend French will continue the good works that have made him so beloved to his community in Baton Rouge.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me today in honoring my good friend Reverend Thomas French's life and works. His exceptional energy, service to the public good, and lifelong dedication to his church and his state are an example for all of us to follow. I am honored to call him a friend, and I wish him the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT RHYS W. KLASNO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, California National Guard Sergeant Rhys W. Klasno. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Rhys was born in Orange, California and attended Woodcrest Christian middle and high schools in Riverside, California. School officials and teachers remember Rhys fondly—he was a good student who was friendly with classmates and teachers.

Sergeant Klasno enlisted in the California National Guard in 2004 and was trained as an ammunition Sergeant before being reassigned in April 2006 as a heavy vehicle driver for the 1114th Transportation Company, according to the Riverside Press Enterprise. Members of Rhys's unit recall a young man who was ready to help others. After his enlistment in the National Guard, Rhys had planned to become a paramedic and to help save lives. Rhys deployed to Iraq in July 2006 and was killed Sunday, May 13, 2007, by a roadside bomb in Haditha, Iraq. Rhys received the National Defense Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Drill Attendance Ribbon. Today Sergeant Klasno was laid to rest at Riverside National Cemetery in California.

Rhys leaves behind his wife, Stephanie Ann Klasno and their soon-to-be-born daughter, London; his mother and father Michael and Lynn Klasno; and his grandparents Elisabeth Klasno of Temecula and Robert E. Jardinico of Arizona.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Rhys, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Today was probably the hardest day the Klasno family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Sergeant Klasno's wife and family have all given a part of themselves today in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their husband, son and grandson, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to share my concerns with Section 703 of the FY 2008 Defense Authorization Bill, H.R. 1585. This provision would allow the Secretary to exclude prescription drugs that our soldiers and their families rely on to treat diabetes, asthma, cholesterol and hypertension from the TRICARE uniform formulary. This provision would create a fundamental change in the TRICARE pharmacy benefit program. Currently our military personnel have access to all drugs, even non-formulary drugs, but with a substantially higher co-pay. This provision could exclude altogether access to important lifesaving treatments and medicines.

This provision is indirectly a price control. It places a ceiling on prices that can be negotiated. The GAO and CBO previously have said that when price controls are expanded, it could have the effect of raising prices for other programs. The provision could have the unintended consequence of affecting the prices paid by the Veterans Administration, which could impact veterans' access to medicine. Price controls are also harmful to innovation, which could impede the discoveries of cures and treatments for the illnesses suffered by our soldiers, veterans and their families.

I urge my colleagues to strike this provision in conference to ensure that our soldiers and their families have access to the treatments that will allow them to continue to live healthy and productive lives.

TRIBUTE TO LANE BEATTIE

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Lane Beattie, president and CEO of the Salt Lake Chamber. Lane was honored last week as the Distinguished Utahn of the Year, joining the ranks of many other Utahns who have contributed to the development of the State. Each year the Salt Lake City Chapter of the BYU Management Society recognizes individuals in the State of Utah for their exemplary leadership and service to the community, and Lane is a well-deserving recipient.

Lane was a professional real estate broker and developer. He has also given extensive service in the public sector. Lane, a friend and colleague of mine from the State legislature, was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1989. He quickly ascended the ranks of leadership, becoming Utah Senate President just 5 years later. He served as president of the Senate for 6 years and established a reputation as one who had the best interests of Utahns at heart.

While in the Senate, Lane proposed and implemented some of the most sweeping changes in the legislative process in several decades, including total internet access for legislators as well as the public. This made the legislative process significantly more efficient and allowed more legislator and citizen involvement. This is just one example of his commitment to truly serving the citizens of Utah by making the process and product of the legislature better.

This award is evidence of the high esteem in which Lane is held by all those who know him. His colleagues in the Senate have commented that, under his leadership, the Senate became "more efficient, productive, professional, and more open to the public." For those of us who know something about the Senate, that's saying a lot! One quality that I admired about Lane when we served together in the Utah State Legislature was his ability to build consensus. Having a good leader in the Senate certainly made my life easier on the House side.

I always appreciated Lane's commitment to lowering taxes. As leader of the Senate, he made sure the Senate passed major tax reforms and reductions across the State that have saved taxpayers millions of dollars. The Taxpayers Association, in presenting Lane the Taxpayers Advocate Award in 1999, estimated that, during his leadership in the Senate, permanent tax cuts amounting to \$1 billion were enacted.

Lane has represented our State well, being asked to speak locally, nationally, and internationally. In 1996 he was invited to address the European Union in Italy on Federalism and State's rights. He also served as a representative for all United States Senate Presidents when he was elected as Chairman of the National Senate Presidents Forum in 1998. The following year he headed a delegation from the United States on an official visit to China as a guest of the Vice President of China.

In June 2000, Governor Leavitt asked Lane to accept the post as Chief State Olympic Officer for the State of Utah to oversee and manage the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. As State Olympic Officer, Lane was in charge of coordinating the legal, financial and inter-government arrangements for Utah's hosting of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Other members of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympics commended Lane for his unwavering commitment and tireless efforts at the Olympics. He was particularly effective at bringing together different groups and uniting everyone toward accomplishing a common goal. Lane's effectiveness at finding solutions to problems greatly contributed to the success of the 2002 Winter Olympics. His reputation as a leader extends beyond just the State of Utah.

Following the Olympics, Lane was chosen as president and CEO of the Salt Lake Chamber. His experience in both the public and private sector has been a tremendous asset to the business community in the Salt Lake area and his vision for Utah has improved the state as a whole. Lane is truly a voice for the business community in Utah.

Working with and supporting Lane in his various civic pursuits is Lane's wife Joy and their three children. His contributions as a legislator, businessman, and Olympic Officer have truly made Utah a better place to live. Lane Beattie is one of Utah's most accomplished leaders and I am pleased to honor him today for his outstanding contributions and achievements.

PRIVILEGED MOTION REGARDING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST REPRESENTATIVE MURTHA

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I cannot support this motion.

If the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (the so-called Ethics Committee) were to report such a resolution, it would be a matter demanding careful consideration by the House.

But that is not the case with this resolution. It has not been considered by the Ethics Committee or by any other Committee and its author seeks to have the full House of Representatives act on it without having the benefit of any hearings before it is debated here on the floor.

To me, Madam Speaker, that is not the appropriate way to proceed.

The resolution combines elements of an indictment—in the form of allegations stated as facts—with those of a verdict in the form of a conclusion that there has been a violation of the Rules of the House.

I do not know whether any or all of the allegations are true, and so I cannot say whether or not the proposed verdict would be just.

Rather than ask the House to vote today on those allegations and the proposed verdict, I think the resolution's author should bring the matters dealt with in this resolution to the attention of the Ethics Committee so they can be considered in a way that allows for a fair process aimed at determining the facts and making such recommendations as the facts will support.

Because that has not been done, I think the resolution is premature at best and so I cannot support it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL AMERICA JOB ASSISTANCE AND CREATION ACT

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Rural America Job Assistance and Creation Act, which is a comprehensive measure designed to address a host of issues identified as problematic for residents and businesses in my central and northern New York district and the rest of rural America.

The need for this legislation, which I have introduced in each of the past three Congresses, has been reillustrated by a recent development in my district. Specifically, on May 14, 2007, the General Motors, GM, Corporation announced that it would phase out some 500 jobs at its Powertrain plant in Massena, NY. While such an unfortunate event would have a negative impact on any community, it is especially devastating for my constituents in St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, as GM's \$31 million annual payroll served as a cornerstone to the local economy and will be difficult to replace.

The GM situation in Massena particularly illustrates the need for two provisions of this

legislation. First, when GM made its decision regarding the Massena Powertrain plant, the company failed to notify me or any elected officials in advance. However, under the Rural America Job Assistance and Creation Act, companies that employ 100 or more workers would have to provide the impacted elected officials with 60 days' advance notice of a decision to reduce its workforce or close. This notice would serve two purposes: (1) to alert these officials to the situation and the impact it will have on workers and the community; and (2) to provide these officials with the opportunity to assist in determining if State and/or Federal resources are available and can be utilized to prevent closure or layoffs and the resulting loss of employment opportunities.

Secondly, the GM situation in Massena also highlights the need for a provision in the Rural America Job Assistance and Creation Act that would exclude from gross income up to \$25,000 of any qualified severance pay. Needless to say, it is often very difficult for employees who suffer layoffs or the shutdown of their place of employment, particularly in rural areas, to find new employment that provides a comparable income. While severance pay certainly provides affected individuals with a small sense of security and is without a doubt a helping hand in a time of great need, unfortunately, the recipients often lose a third of their severance pay to taxes because they are pushed into a higher bracket.

Madam Speaker, this bill is also designed to help my district and the rest of rural America develop jobs, in the wake of plant closings and otherwise. For example, the Rural America Job Assistance and Creation Act would establish regional skills alliances to help identify needed skills and create and implement effective training solutions. In addition, the bill would also encourage cooperation between educational institutions and entrepreneurs who have innovative ideas but cannot afford the legal and consultant fees necessary to take their ideas from the drawing board to the production line or otherwise make them a reality.

To increase international cooperation in the development of economic and job opportunities, the Rural America Job Assistance and Creation Act would also streamline the immigration visa procedures for H1-B professional specialty workers by requiring the submission of the H1-B labor condition application to the U.S. Department of Labor at the same time as the classification petition is submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. By reducing unnecessary delays in the processing of these visas, this provision would help facilitate the employment-related travel necessary for border areas like my northern New York congressional district to further its symbiotic relationship with Canada and thereby create good jobs.

Finally, the Rural America Job Assistance and Creation Act would expand the work opportunity tax credit to include both small businesses and individuals found in communities experiencing population loss and low job growth rates such as those in central and northern New York. Approximately 100 such communities would be so designated, subsidizing some 8,000 jobs in each area.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this important legislation. It not only would help my Massena constituents as

they face the fallout of GM's decision, it also would enhance the economic opportunities available and quality of life throughout our great Nation.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF DR. HALEH ESFANDIARI

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, in December 2006, while visiting her ailing 93-year-old mother in Iran, Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, a respected American scholar, and director of the Middle East Program at the Smithsonian's Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC, was imprisoned by the Government of Iran.

Dr. Esfandiari is a dual U.S.-Iranian citizen who has lived in the United States for more than 25 years. She taught Persian language and literature for many years at Princeton University where she inspired untold numbers of students to study the rich Persian language and culture.

While preparing to board her flight back to the United States, Dr. Esfandiari was stopped by Iranian officials, and forced at knife point to turn over her passport. Afterwards, she was repeatedly interrogated by Iranian intelligence officials and, though the Ministry of Intelligence has yet to produce any evidence of wrongdoing, she has been held in Iran's notorious Evin Prison since May 7, 2007.

Iran's imprisonment of Haleh Esfandiari shows a gross disregard for the rule of law and belies statements by Iranian government officials that Iran would like to improve relations with the United States.

I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in passing this resolution to demand that the government of Iran immediately release Dr. Haleh Esfandiari and to encourage the U.S. Government to employ all appropriate means to expedite the process.

TRIBUTE TO WHITE CHURCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the White Church Christian Church of Kansas City, Kansas, which will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding on June 2, 2007.

White Church Christian Church is the oldest continuously operating church in the State of Kansas; the church and the Delaware Indian Cemetery west of the church are listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places. The inside walls of the original log building were white-washed, so the native Indians referred to it as the "white church." As a result, the surrounding area became known as White Church, Kansas.

In 1830, the Missouri Conference of the Methodist Church met in St. Louis to establish the mission society that would soon begin its work among the Kansas Indians. The Rev. Thomas Johnson was appointed to serve as superintendent of what was then known as the Kansas Indiana Missionary District. Two years later, Rev. Thomas Johnson, his brother Rev. William Johnson, and Rev. Thomas Markham established a mission school and church at the site of today's church. In the 1834 annual report of the Missionary Society, it was reported: "The church has forty members, some serving as exhorters, and they were regular in attendance at preaching and other means of grace. There are twenty-four native children in the mission school who are learning well." In 1844, the original church was destroyed by fire and a new church was built. Beginning in 1850, the land in the reservation was deeded by the government to Indians individually. Some sold their ground and soon the area began to be settled by white people.

In 1870, a school district was established and a school located near the church adopted the same name, White Church School. Disaster struck the church for a second time on May 11, 1886, when the walnut-framed White Church and the original White Church School building were destroyed by a tornado. In the following year, a two-story school building was erected on the present site of the White Church Elementary School. On May 4, 1904, the cornerstone of the present native stone church structure was laid. The Gothic building included 21 memorial stained glass windows.

The adjoining Delaware Indian Cemetery is the oldest area cemetery in which burials are still conducted, with the earliest recorded burial having taken place in 1881. For approximately 100 years, White Church, under the direction of the Methodist Church, served both Native Americans and White Americans. In 1931, the White Church withdrew its affiliation from the Methodist Church and organized a Community Church at White Church. Later, in 1956, the congregation voted to become affiliated with the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and was renamed White Church Community Christian Church. In 1968, the word "Community" was removed from the church name. In 1965, an educational unit was built on top of the stone foundation at the south end of Fellowship Hall, and in 1966, the church board established a pre-school and child care center to serve the community. Expansion of the congregation and improvements to the property have continued to the present day, as we approach the 175th anniversary of this anchor of the Kansas City community. As a history of the church, published in 1996, notes, "It is the prayer of the present generation of God's servants, that there always be a Church at this place, and that the generations which follow will continue to serve the Lord to the End of Time."

Madam Speaker, I know that you and all members of the House of Representatives join with me in commending the White Church Christian Church on its upcoming 175th anniversary celebration and I thank you for the opportunity to place this statement of commendation in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF LINDA K. BOWMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today and recognize the retirement of Linda K. Bowman. Over the last three decades, Mrs. Bowman has dedicated her work to improving the quality of life in my district of northwest Florida.

Throughout her entire career, Linda has been unquestionably devoted to serving her community. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Home Economics Education from Florida State University. In 1973, she joined the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (UF/IFAS) as a faculty member with the Escambia County Extension Service. Here she began a career with Family and Consumer Sciences that would extend over 30 years.

In an effort to further her education and better serve her community, Linda became a Registered Dietician in 1980 and soon relocated to the Santa Rosa County Extension Service, where she has been for the last 16 years of her career.

Since college, Linda has maintained active membership in numerous professional organizations. These include the Extension Honorary Society, Epsilon Sigma Phi; the Florida Extension Association; the American Dietetic Association; and she is a graduate of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Class.

She dedicated her energy toward making northwest Florida the best place to live and she is well known for the efforts she put forth toward that goal. Throughout her career, Linda has been blessed with the support from her husband Chuck, and their three loving children: Kevin, Heather, and Amy. She has spent her entire career sharing her insights with others and looking at ways to better aid and care for her community.

There is no question that Linda is a leader for northwest Florida and has set the bar high for all those who will follow. Her leadership and knowledge helped to create a better place, and her service to those in this community will, be missed. I remain confident that Linda's input will still play a great role in continuing the efforts to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great admiration that I recognize Mrs. Linda K. Bowman, our community has benefited greatly from her service, and I wish her well in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTHA JEAN
ADAMS-HEGGINS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman who has dedicated her entire career to ensuring that our youngest students receive the best education possible. On Friday, May 25,

2007, Dr. Martha Jean Adams-Beggins is retiring as the Director of South Carolina State University's Family Life Center. Dr. Heggins' retirement is the culmination of a 43-year career in early childhood education.

A native of Florence, South Carolina, Dr. Beggins began her teaching career there after graduating from South Carolina State University (SCSU) in 1964. She spent 2 years as a first grade teacher at Carver Elementary in Florence, and then went on to teach in Cope and Orangeburg, South Carolina before deciding to pursue her master's at Bank Street College of Education in New York. After she earned her advanced degree, Dr. Beggins returned to South Carolina to teach kindergarten at Felton Laboratory School at SCSU. The following year, she became an instructor at the university and went on to become the Assistant Director of Student Teaching.

However, Martha Heggins knew she wanted to pursue her doctorate and moved to New Jersey to attend Rutgers University. While earning her PhD, she was an Instructor of Early Childhood Education, a Teaching Assistant in the Urban Education Department, and the Director of Demonstration Day Care Learning Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She received a Ford Foundation Research Award for her "Study of the Relationship of Logical Thinking to School Achievement in Elementary School Children."

Upon earning her doctorate, Dr. Heggins returned home to South Carolina and her beloved SCSU. In 1975, she became an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education and has not left the university since. Over the years, Dr. Beggins has become a highly valued member of SCSU's education department. She has served as an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, Director of the Title XX Project, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, and in 1982 became a full Professor.

Dr. Heggins has implemented, directed and served as the Coordinator of the Undergraduate and Graduate Early Childhood Programs at SCSU. Since 1999, she has served as the Director of SCSU's Family Life Center. In this position, she oversees a program for at-risk students and parents from the poorest neighborhoods in Orangeburg, South Carolina. The program focuses on 6 core areas: academic development, personal development, career enrichment, cultural enrichment, family bonding, and recreational development. Under Dr. Heggins' leadership, the program has received national recognition by the Family and Community Violence Prevention Program at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Dr. Beggins has also been involved with the Orangeburg Gang Summit Task Force.

She is a member of the America Association of University Women, the Association for Childhood Education International, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the South Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Organization for Women, Phi Delta Kappa International, and Kappa Omicron Nu. Dr. Heggins has received numerous honors including Teacher of the Year 1991-92 for SCSU's School of Education; Distinguish Faculty Chair 1982-83 at SCSU; and inclusion in a number of Who's Who listings. She is the organizer, founder and vice president of the National Black Child Development Institute at SCSU, which is the

first undergraduate chapter in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Dr. Martha Jean Adams-Heggins for her exemplary career. I commend her dedication to educating young people and to ensuring that those with the least among us are given the tools necessary to succeed in life. I wish her a wonderful retirement and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF STAFF SERGEANT
ANSELMO MARTINEZ III

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, like so many young soldiers fighting for this Nation in Iraq—whose tours have been extended by the current surge in Iraq—Army SSG Anselmo Martinez III, from Robstown, Texas, was due for a 2-week leave from his first tour duty in Iraq around Mother's Day, but it kept getting pushed back.

He was due to come home sometime in July. On May 18, after the armored vehicle he was riding in ran over an improvised explosive device in Tahrir, Iraq, his time on this Earth ended, and he won't see his mother or his wife and two children ever again.

Each time we lose a soldier, it breaks my heart. It hurts all the more when it is a soldier from South Texas. This one is from my hometown.

SSG Anselmo Martinez was stationed in Fort Hood, where his wife Christina Martinez lives their two daughters. He graduated from Robstown High School in 1998 and joined the Army in 2002 for job security.

Sergeant Martinez deployed to Iraq in October with the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Everyone called him B.J., short for "Baby Junior," because no one wanted to call him a number; he was the third in his family sharing the same name.

He loved to fish, and the first thing he would want to do when he came home was grab a fishing pole and head to Oso Bay.

BJ loved to work with his hands, to shape things. At Robstown High School, he was a member of the woodshop club. He was a funny, sweet, and polite young man who was loved by everyone and who was proud to serve his country.

A fellow soldier from Robstown who knew him said Sergeant Martinez was an excellent role model and a great noncommissioned officer. He thought of his men while in Iraq; yet he was missed badly at home.

On February 4, his wife told him: "Hola papa. I feel so bad that you couldn't be here today for baby's birthday."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the life and service of Army SSG Anselmo Martinez III, from Robstown, Texas, who gave the last full measure of devotion to his country.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL PRESIDENT/CEO IRENE CUMMING

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outgoing president/chief executive officer of the University of Kansas Hospital, Irene Cumming, who is leaving KU's hospital after 11 years to become chief executive officer of the Oak Brook, Illinois, based University HealthSystem Consortium, a group of 97 academic medical centers and their affiliated hospitals.

During her tenure as president/CEO of the University of Kansas Hospital, Irene Cumming compiled what the Kansas Legislature recently described as a "stunning list of successes and achievements." As Lawrence Journal-World editor Dolph Simons, Jr., recently noted, "Cumming became CEO of the hospital in 1996 after serving as its chief financial officer since 1994. The hospital was in bad shape in terms of the number and excellence of its doctors, staff and patients. Staff morale was very low, and its perceived excellence in the minds of greater Kansas City residents was suffering. Today, it is the best hospital in Kansas City. Its patient load is growing each year, it enjoys a solid financial base and it provides great support for the KU medical school both in the quality of training it provides to residents and in the dollars it provides to the school. Cumming helped to build a true winner and model for other hospitals, particularly those with close historical ties to a medical school."

The improvements and accomplishments credited to the University of Kansas Hospital under Irene Cumming's leadership are numerous, including:

Since 1998, patient volume has grown by 50 percent to nearly 20,000 patients, shattering all existing patient volume records in the 100 year history of the hospital;

Financial health has improved steadily every year, with revenue climbing 185 percent to more than half a billion dollars since the Hospital Authority was established;

Financial strength has allowed significant capital investment in resources and facilities, totaling nearly \$450 million in the 8 years following the establishment of the Hospital Authority;

This financial strength has also permitted a 340 percent increase in support provided for the hospital for the university since 1998, with \$31 million this year alone;

After purchasing the outpatient cancer program from a for-profit corporation to which the university had transferred it in the 1990s, the hospital has invested \$75 million in cancer services, including the construction of the largest outpatient cancer center in the region, opening this summer on the hospital's Westwood campus;

In 2000, the heart program at the hospital was revitalized, culminating in the 2006 opening of the \$77 million Center for Advanced Heart Care;

The hospital became, and continues to be, the region's only nationally-accredited level 1 Trauma Center;

The hospital's Bennett Burn Center is the only adult/pediatric burn center in Kansas City

accredited by the American College of Surgeons and the American Burn Association;

The quality and safety of patient care has improved dramatically and gained national recognition; in 2006, the hospital ranked 11th among the Nation's 81 academic medical centers in overall safety and quality rankings;

The hospital ranks in the top 17 percent of institutions in the University HealthSystem Consortium database in mortality;

The hospital earned Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center of the American Nurses Association, the first designation for a Kansas-based hospital [only 3.5 percent of the Nation's health care organizations are Magnet hospitals];

The hospital received the first Annual Performance Achievement Award from the American Heart Association for stroke care in a six-state region;

The hospital's cancer program received the 2004 Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement Award, achieved by only eight percent of cancer programs in the country;

The hospital is a nationally recognized leader in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 100,000 lives campaign;

The hospital pioneered the creation of partnerships between physicians and hospital staff to raise quality, with a model so successful it has been adopted by many institutions across the country;

Patient satisfaction ratings have climbed more than 900 percent since 1998 in the Kansas City area;

Employee turnover has dropped from 33 percent in 1998 to 11.69 percent, the lowest among Kansas City hospitals;

Sixty-one percent of the hospital's nurses have BSN degrees, compared to a 33 percent national average, and the hospital has the second lowest nursing turnover rate among large hospitals in Kansas City;

The hospital's staffed beds have nearly doubled, from 275 to 508; and

The hospital has achieved all of this while still providing care for those who can't afford it; fiscal year 2007 projections are to absorb nearly \$100 million in uncompensated care charges.

Prior to joining KU Hospital, Irene Cumming was associate director of medical affairs for St. Luke's Health System and chief executive officer of St. Luke's Medical Development Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri. From 1989–1993, she was executive vice president and chief financial officer of Allegheny Health, Education and Research Foundation of Philadelphia. Additionally, she previously was a partner in the national health care division of Price Waterhouse, where she was one of the first women to be admitted to the partnership.

Clearly, Irene Cumming is a woman of vision, distinction and achievement. The University of Kansas Hospital was very fortunate to have her as its president/CEO for the past 11 years and her departure leaves an exceptional pair of shoes to fill. Madam Speaker, on behalf of all residents of the Kansas City region and all consumers of KU Hospital, I thank Irene Cumming for her many accomplishments while associated with the University of Kansas Hospital and wish her every success in future endeavors, as well.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF LUKE MCCOY FROM "PENSACOLA SPEAKS"

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize a living legend in northwest Florida. After nearly 15 years, Mr. Luke McCoy is stepping down as the host of the long-running "Pensacola Speaks" talk radio show in my district.

Luke's viewpoints were as well-known as his distinctive voice as he took to the airwaves in the afternoon. However, he let all callers and guests offer their own opinions and insights and never hesitated to broach a tough political issue. The topics covered both national and local levels, and the callers always numerous and well-informed no matter the issue. Luke was well-known as the "Common Man's Intellectual" as he brought these issues into a forum where all felt comfortable discussing them and offering their views.

It was not just the topics brought up on Luke McCoy's show that made it great, but also the way Luke presented them—sometimes with humor, sometimes with a touch of irreverence, and when appropriate with well-deserved dignity. However, his respect for differing viewpoints was always constant, and northwest Florida will miss having his familiar presence on the airwaves in the afternoons. Fortunately, listeners will still get to hear Luke on the local morning show, and I know his unique personality will be a breath of fresh air.

Luke McCoy is more than a radio personality, though, Madam Speaker. More than anything, he is a patriot, having served his country in combat and being wounded in action in Vietnam. He served with both the Army's 82nd Airborne Division as well as the Marine Corps as he recognized the greatness of this Nation and answered a call to duty. Those that listen to Luke and meet him know this patriotism is still strong today. He recognizes the different opinions and people that have come together to make America what it is today, but his support goes to what he sees as keeping this the greatest Nation in the world.

Madam Speaker, I know many share my sadness with Luke's departure from "Pensacola Speaks." His name is a fixture in the community, and I know many will seek his advice for years to come. His passion to contribute to this country is endless, and I know as he rides his Harley through northwest Florida and elsewhere that he will always maintain his support and love for the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO TRACY DELLA VECCHIA

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, as our men and women in uniform are deployed all over the world, they leave behind parents, siblings, spouses, children, and friends. It has

come to my attention that Tracy Della Vecchia has formed a network in order for families of those deployed in the United States Marine Corps to stay connected and informed.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began, Tracy's son, Derrick Johnson, was in marine basic training. Like so many others, he was deployed to Iraq after training. Not long into Derrick's tour Tracy met several other mothers with concerns similar to her own, and it was after this meeting that she decided to create www.marineparents.com. The website was designed for others to reach out through chat rooms in order to post questions and get answers from other families that have been in the same situations and circumstances. Since creating this forum in 2003, Tracy has spent countless hours organizing, sorting, and sending care packages to marines who are serving in Iraq.

Tracy Della Vecchia formed this organization with the intention of making a difference, and the care packages she has mailed have done just that. Recently, she sent hundreds of AA batteries for personal CD players; however, the batteries were put to use in night vision goggles when the unit's supply was exhausted. Personal hygiene and first aid items have also been included in care packages; however, they were used in combat situations to ease the pain of the wounded.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in thanking Tracy Della Vecchia for all that she does for the United States Marine Corps and the men and women who are currently serving overseas.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SPECIAL AGENT ERNEST A. SIMON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments that Special Agent Ernest A. Simon has made to the safety and security of our Nation. Mr. Simon currently serves as the Executive Assistant Director for Criminal Investigations or the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and is a member of the Senior Executive Service. Special Agent Simon is retiring from federal service after an illustrious 31 year career in federal law enforcement.

Special Agent Simon began his career with the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) in October 1975 following his graduation from San Diego State University. From December 1978 to December 1980, Mr. Simon was assigned to the NCIS Office in Guam, after which served as Staff Assistant to the Regional Director for Operations of the NIS Regional Office New York. In 1982, Mr. Simon was appointed Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of the NIS Newport, Rhode Island Office, and in 1984 he returned to New York City as ASAC of the NIS Office in New York.

In 1986, Mr. Simon transferred back to the West Coast as Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the NIS Office in Miramar, California, and named SAC of the newly-formed San Diego Regional Fraud Unit, a highly specialized office that focuses on major procurement fraud investigations. In 1990, Mr. Simon transferred to NISHQ, as a Division Head of the Fraud

Department, as part of the reorganization of NIS to NCIS; Mr. Simon was named Deputy Assistant Director for Fraud in the Criminal Investigations Directorate in 1993. In 1996, Mr. Simon was appointed Assistant Director for Government Liaison & Public Affairs and subsequently named Assistant Director for Criminal Investigations.

In July 2001, Mr. Simon was appointed to the Senior Executive Service as the Executive Assistant Director (EAD) for Pacific Operations, headquartered in San Diego, CA. In this capacity, he served as the primary focal point for major Navy and Marine Corps Commands on all force protection, investigations and operations affecting the Pacific region and supervised seven NCIS Field Offices. In April 2006, Mr. Simon was again transferred back to NCIS Headquarters to serve in his current position as EAD for Criminal Investigations.

By promoting results-oriented strategies, as well as focusing on those crime problems that are known to have a debilitating effect on operational readiness or, have the potential to precipitate a serious international political incident, Executive Assistant Director Simon has made the criminal investigations program as a model program for how federal law enforcement should operate in today's high impact and highly charged threat environment.

Mr. Simon's career has been marked by sustained progression, significant challenges and numerous successes. He has earned the reputation over the years of being a stellar investigator who steadfastly adheres to the highest ethical standards of the law enforcement profession, and most importantly, an accomplished and dedicated leader. He will long be remembered as a leader who was deliberate and always maintained a sense of compassion and understanding for the people of NCIS.