

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CAMERON PAYNE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Army Private First Class Cameron Payne. Today on Flag Day, as we honor the history of "Old Glory," I ask that the House of Representatives also honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Cameron grew up in Corona, California where his wife, children, mother and brother still reside. Private First Class Payne enlisted in the Army in 2005 and was a man with goals for his life and his family. Private First Class Payne completed basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia and was stationed at Fort Riley. He was deployed to Iraq in February and on Monday, June 11, 2007 Private First Class Payne was killed by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 22 years old.

In reading about Cameron's life, I was impressed by his devotion to family. The Press Enterprise describes a man that cared very deeply for his mother and brother. Private First Class Payne was also a proud and loving husband and parent. He dreamed of moving his new family to the Seattle area. He leaves behind his wife Julie and two daughters, Annaleese and Kylee. He also leaves behind his mother Jackson and brother Cody.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Cameron, 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. When the Payne family learned of Cameron's passing, it was probably the hardest moment the 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.

Private First Class Payne's wife, children and family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their husband, father, son and brother, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.

LORRAINE MILLER'S HISTORIC APPOINTMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand today to acknowledge the significance of Lor-

raine C. Miller's appointment as Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 110th Congress. Her accomplishment as the first African American and the first woman of color to serve as Clerk of the House is unprecedented. As a member who has admired her work, respected her professionalism and considers her a friend, I am honored to acknowledge her historic appointment.

Although Ms. Miller has served the U.S. House of Representatives for nearly 20 years, her passion for public service began long before she came to the Hill. After graduating from Texas State University in 1975 with a Bachelor's degree in political science, Ms. Miller returned to her home town in Fort Worth, Texas to work in the public school system as a high school teacher. While Ms. Miller appreciated the value in her position as an educator, she possessed a strong desire to work in government. For 10 years she consistently sent written requests to work in Congressman Jim Wright's office. Her persistence availed and she worked with Congressman Wright for over a decade, gradually working her way to being his executive assistant when he became Speaker of the House. Ms. Miller has also worked as a facilitator with House Speaker Tom Foley; as senior advisor to Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI for the past 6 years; and with various federal agencies and initiatives. She is also an active member in her church and has been President of the Washington Branch of the NAACP since 2004.

Ms. Miller has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to public service and leadership in legislative responsibilities. While her recent appointment as Clerk of House is an addition to her many accomplishments, it is truly a monumental and historic occasion. Since the inception of the Office of the Clerk in 1789, no African American or woman of color has ever possessed its title and responsibilities. Under Congresswoman's PELOSI's recommendation, Ms. Miller has broken through barriers and has set new standards for women and people of color. It is a privilege for me to recognize her achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAINT AN- DREW UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Saint Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church of Northeast Ohio, and to acknowledge the vibrant spirit of its parishioners.

Since its 1967 dedication to the late Reverend Mitred Dmytro Gresko, Saint Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church has been an active community institution in Northeastern Ohio. At a time when communities struggle to maintain their connections, Saint Andrew has sponsored social gatherings that have brought

neighborhoods and families together. Saint Andrew's commitment to community involvement has created many valuable relationships between the church and local organizations.

Saint Andrew's has been the backbone of the people and has cultivated kinship amongst strangers. It has shared the joys of our family and friends, and has lifted our sorrows. Saint Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church has provided a sanctuary for the vulnerable and displaced among us. It has been a political and spiritual leader during an unpredictable time in our nation's history. The clergy of Saint Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church are admirable religious leaders who strive to grow with the community and continuously offer guidance that fulfills the needs of their parishioners.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Saint Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church, for the many years it has brought us together and the countless services it has offered to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER SEATTLE SERVICE LEAGUE

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Seattle Service League, GSSL, for their commitment to raising funds and awareness for Childhaven, a Seattle-based organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse. The organization uses scientifically-supported programs to protect and treat children through 5 years of age while simultaneously providing counseling and education to victims' families. Childhaven currently operates four Seattle-area branches to reach people around the City. Anyone who visits the Childhaven facilities will see firsthand the miracles that can be established by the caring and proven efforts at Childhaven.

The GSSL began in 1979 as a group of recent college graduates committed to making a difference in the community; they have subsequently grown into a philanthropic force in the Seattle area. GSSL and Childhaven have been in partnership for 27 years. For the past 18 years, their yearly Hoopaholics fundraiser has allowed basketball enthusiasts to play a few games, raise money for Childhaven at the same time, and hear about the power of mentoring by committed people like Mike Pierson. Since its inception, the \$300,000 that has been raised through Hoopaholics has gone toward continuing day-to-day program operations, furnishing the new Broadway Center and purchasing vans, books, furniture, and playground equipment for other branches, among other purposes. GSSL is truly a valued partner of the Childhaven Treatment Centers, and the efforts of its mentors are greatly appreciated.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT THOMAS MICHAEL
MCFALL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Army SSG Thomas Michael McFall. Today on Flag Day as we honor the history of "Old Glory," I ask that the House of Representatives also honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Thomas grew up in Riverside, where his father still resides. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, home-based in Fort Lewis, Washington. Staff Sergeant McFall was a career soldier who understood the dangers of his job. He joined the Army in 1994 and has been stationed all over the world, including South Korea, Panama, Japan and Afghanistan before deploying to Iraq in April. On May 28, 2007, Sergeant McFall was killed by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq.

In reading about Thomas' life, I was impressed by his charismatic and caring nature. The Press Enterprise describes a man that would take in other soldiers who had nowhere to go during Christmas time. Sergeant McFall was also a proud and loving husband and parent. He leaves behind his wife Emily and three children Austin, Elizabeth and Matthew. He also leaves behind his father Thomas, stepmother Sherry, mother April and stepfather Charles as well as several brothers and sisters. Staff Sergeant McFall was laid to rest Friday, June 8, 2007 at Riverside National Cemetery.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Thomas, 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. The day the McFall family had to say farewell to Thomas was probably the hardest day the 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.

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

SUPPORT FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION
422

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand today to show support of and solidarity with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's House Resolution 422 introduced on May 21, 2007 calling

on the Government of the People's Republic of China to "use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur." The atrocities of Darfur have carried on way too long and it is necessary for us to broaden our efforts.

The issuance of Executive Order 13067 by President Clinton in 1997; its renewal and expanded scope through President Bush; as well as the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 all indicate the commitment of this Nation to ending the ongoing and escalating human rights violations in Sudan. While the unilateral economic sanctions imposed by the United States are important, it is not enough: U.S. sanctions alone have been unable to discourage or discontinue the rape, killing or displacement of millions of civilians. It has become increasingly clear that multilateral targeted sanctions enforced by the international community have the potential to pressure the Sudanese government into action to end the conflict in Darfur.

As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, investor in Sudan's infrastructure and oil industries, and supplier of Sudan's weapons, the People's Republic of China possesses an enormous amount of power to pressure Sudan to end the genocide and comply with the initiatives of the United Nations. Their support is integral in an international effort to end the Darfur conflict.

House Resolution 422 brings overdue attention to the People's Republic of China's longstanding economic and military ties to Sudan and urges China to effectively use these ties to compel Sudan to take steps to stop the attacks on civilians and comply with United Nations Security Council Resolutions. As hosts of the Olympic Summer Games of 2008, with a slogan of "One World One Dream," it is only fitting for the People's Republic of China to join the international community in our effort to bring stability to the nation. I applaud Congresswoman LEE's efforts to engage international support to end this conflict.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MOLLY
IVINS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Tyler "Molly" Ivins, for her outstanding career in and contribution to American journalism as a columnist, political commentator and bestselling author.

Molly earned her master's degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and an honorary doctorate from Haverford College. She worked for several newspapers, including the Houston Chronicle, the Texas Observer, the New York Times, and the Dallas-Times Herald, and received a number of awards, especially for her efforts in defense of the First Amendment.

Molly's independence and courage marked everything she did. She had the guts to speak her mind, no matter the opposition. She repeatedly defended the powerless and the downtrodden, and she did so with wit and humor, grabbing us by our hearts and minds.

Even as she battled cancer, her concern for others did not wane. She continued to invite

people with needs into her home, educating them and teaching them the habits and values that have characterized her own life.

Molly is survived by her brother, Andy, and her sister, Sara Ivins Maley. She will be missed by family, friends, colleges, and thousands of readers.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mary Tyler "Molly" Ivins, for her love of America. May her indomitable spirit live on in the voices of all who speak out for justice.

HONORING PATRICIA A. COPPO
FOR 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL
MARROW DONOR PROGRAM

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, after 20 years of dedicated service, Patricia A. Coppo is retiring from her life-saving work with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). As you know, the NMDP allows medical miracles to occur every day as the program recruits adult donors and umbilical cord blood units to provide stem cell transplantations for patients with life-threatening blood disorders.

Pat, who retires as the Chief Operating Officer of the NMDP, has been with the program since its inception. With a small earmarked appropriation from the United States Navy, the NMDP began in 1987 with four staff members in a cramped room in a Red Cross office in St. Paul, Minnesota. They had a vision and a mission and with the support and guidance of Congress and the Navy began their work to save lives one at a time.

Pat started as a bone marrow search coordinator and worked with transplant centers to try to find donors for their patients from several donor registries that had developed through the work of patients and their families, blood centers and transplant hospitals. It was almost a needle in a haystack approach to saving lives. With the guidance and support of my colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee and in this House, these individual registries came together to form the beginnings of the NMDP. No one then could have conceived of the program that has developed since. As of April of 2007, over 6.5 million donors have joined the Registry and over 28,000 patients have received a second chance at life through bone marrow, stem cell or cord blood transplantation.

Madam Speaker, over these past 20 years, Pat has helped the NMDP save lives through cellular transplantation therapy by providing guidance for the organization, leadership for the staff and stewardship of the NMDP's resources. She has made a profound impact on the organization and staff with her passion for our mission, dedication to the staff, incredible work ethic, sense of humor and ability to adapt, change and grow with the NMDP. She will leave a legacy of important and lasting relationships with a network of over 450 organizations that partner to provide cellular transplant therapies.

The NMDP will miss her but she leaves the program in a great position to continue its life-saving work. As a result of legislation adopted

by Congress in December 2005, the NMDP has been entrusted to operate the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program. The size of the registry will increase, the science of transplantation will advance, and we will continue to develop more services to support patients and families as they cope with a life-threatening disease.

Madam Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Pat for her dedication to the program and the patients we serve. She has made a difference in the lives of thousands of patients and families and for that, they and we will be forever grateful. In closing let me wish Pat all the best as she closes one very long and important chapter in her life and embarks upon a new and yet uncharted journey.

THE MOODY TROJANS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to boast about the tremendous accomplishment of the Moody High School Trojans, winner of the 2007 Texas High School Class 4A Baseball Championship, just this past weekend.

Since 2000, the Trojans have reached the State Championship 3 times and are now walking away with the second of 2 State trophies in just 4 years.

Heading into the playoffs ranked No. 1 in the State, the Moody players lived up to their reputation of maximizing their offense, with the help of exceptional pitching from MVP Championship Pitcher Miguel Gonzalez. The Trojans controlled the championship game with 3 homeruns and crushed their opponents 9-1.

Having learned humility from past defeats, the young men of Moody continue to illustrate the South Texas baseball family tradition—they remain a brotherhood of young athletes. With inspiration, hard work, and faith, these players exemplify the “Moody magic” that has brought the Trojans to State victory once again, ending the season with a record of 39-3-1.

Having earned national recognition, this 4A baseball team from Corpus Christi has been ranked seventh in the Nation by Collegiate Baseball's high school poll. Producing both extraordinary athletes and spectacular leaders, seven of the Moody players have been chosen to fill the 10 available spots on the all-State tournament team.

Recognized for their great accomplishments by the community after they tasted victory, the Trojan players were received by crowds of roaring fans as they arrived home, led by their head coach, Corky Gallegos, who paraded their championship trophy to their high school for display.

What is more remarkable than their success in the State championship again is the invaluable lessons that high school sports teach these young men. They learned that winning is one thing, but winners on the field are made from teamwork and faith; winners in life are those who master the fundamentals, never lose their faith, and put their whole effort into all they do.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending the following play-

ers: Joey Mendoza, Christian Gallegos, Rudy Flores, Rudy Grande, Andrew Perez, Leeroy Hinojosa, Marc A. Gomez, Miguel Gonzalez, Thomas Tovar, Jeff Rousseau, Raul Galvan, Andrew Cantu, James T. Ramirez, Gabriel Morales, Adrian J. Longoria, Justin Meza, Ryan Villarreal, Elias Rodriguez, Josiah Rodriguez, Orlando Perales, Ronnie Flores, Dan Flores, Jacob Perales, Marcus Montez, Arnold J. Franco, Justin Gabrillo, Michael Montez, Randy Rodriguez, Abraham Figueroa, and Calvin Roberts. These special young athletes were led by Head Coach Corky Gallegos, Assistant Coach Richard Diaz, and Assistant Coach Mike Leal.

This outstanding group of young champions representing the “Moody magic” have learned—and lived—the most important lessons of competition, faith and dignity. Madam Speaker, these young people have inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROLYN LOTT

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to honor a shepherd of California's Central Valley, Carolyn Lott. I can think of no one person who has worked harder for their community and on a wider range of issues than Carolyn. As she prepares to retire from years of dedicated service, I'd like to share a little about my good friend.

Carolyn Lott has been a guiding light on the valley's path of social and economic growth. A champion of the Highway 99 Corridor, Carolyn has ensured much needed State capital be directed to this main transportation artery through the Central Valley. Her latest position as Senior Program Manager for the Great Valley Center in Modesto, California has allowed her to continue promoting this agenda, as well as incorporate it into a blueprint plan for the region. In addition to her responsibilities with this position, she also manages the project work within New Valley Connexions, a program that focuses on helping to strengthen and diversify the regional economy of the Central Valley by advancing the use of new technologies and positioning the region to be more competitive in the 21st century.

Prior to Carolyn's current position, she was affiliated with the Great Valley Center as a consultant coordinating a nine-county regional effort to organize sectors of the San Joaquin Valley around development of voluntary measures to help improve air quality. She successfully guided the development of 14 sectors, corresponding working groups, a draft air quality improvement plan, and an inaugural summit with more than 400 attendees. Additionally, through both local efforts and a trip to Washington, DC, congressional assistance for the effort was obtained both through endorsement of the project and actual funding commitments.

Through the Great Valley Center, Carolyn continued her affiliation with the Center for Collaborative Policy in Sacramento, California. CCP is a joint program of California State University, Sacramento and McGeorge School of

Law and offers facilitation for public policy development. Carolyn has completed the sixth year of contract services providing facilitation to the Department of Water Resources for San Joaquin County. During her tenure, the county and a joint powers authority have moved from a stalemate position to recipients of State funding for water supply projects and are currently developing an integrated regional water management plan to assure water reliability and to help restore the significantly depleted underground aquifer. Also with CCP, Carolyn was both project manager and facilitator for the Smart Growth Local Elected Officials Roundtables, a joint project of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the California State Association of Counties, the Local Government Commission, and the League of California Cities.

Prior to her work as a facilitator and program manager, Carolyn (Ratto) Lott was a councilmember in Turlock, California. During this time she was actively involved in numerous policy development activities through both the League of California Cities and the National League of Cities. She played a leadership role as president of the LCC, board of directors member for both organizations, and chair of numerous committees and special projects, including chairing the National League of Cities Leadership Training Council. She has also chaired the California Cities, Counties, and Schools State Partnership and still serves on their board of directors, and served as a Governor's appointee on the Commission for Local Governance in the 21st Century. She has completed a decade of service on the Turlock Chamber of Commerce Leadership Steering Committee and has spent more than half a decade as an advisory board member for California State University, Stanislaus. She also completed three terms as a board member for Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock. Currently she serves as an advisory committee member of the Collaborative Governance Initiative, part of the League of California Cities' Institute for Local Government, as a board member for the California Budget Project, and on the Advisory Committee for the College of Business Administration, California State University, Stanislaus.

Carolyn's efforts on behalf of the Central Valley have left an indelible mark. There is no doubt that future generations will benefit greatly because of Carolyn's foresight and commonsense plans of action. As she prepares to make more time for herself and her husband, Ronald, I trust she will continue to be a great example to all aspiring stewards of our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALARM CUSTOMER VOIP NOTIFICATION ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support for the Alarm Customer VoIP Notification Act, which I am introducing today. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my friend and colleague on the Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee, Congressman CLIFF

STEARNS, who joins me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Currently, burglar and fire alarm signals are transmitted from the home or business to a central monitoring station over the traditional phone line system. In many cases, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone systems will become a substitute for the current land line systems. When a VoIP (broadband) phone system is improperly installed, by either a consumer or a cable provider, there is a significant risk that existing alarm panels will be bypassed, and will no longer be able to send an alert to the alarm monitoring station.

Unless the consumer is notified and the system is properly tested, they will be unaware they no longer have alarm services they are relying on to protect their life, health, safety, and property. Approximately half of the 26 million alarm consumers will learn that their systems are no longer operable when a monthly automatic test is run on their system. However, even those with self-testing systems will be without alarm monitoring services for up to a month. The other half of Americans who have older legacy systems, which cannot be automatically tested by a central monitoring station, will only learn they no longer have alarm services during an emergency. To make matters worse, seniors with home health alert systems, Personal Emergency Response Systems—PERS, will be unaware that they have lost their health lifeline.

Consumers who utilize alarm systems have invested significantly to ensure that they have the security that burglar, health, safety, and fire alarm monitored systems provide. They should be given the information needed to ensure continued alarm monitoring services.

That is why I have introduced the Alarm Customer VoIP Notification Act. This bill requires that before a VoIP system is activated, the customer be notified that their alarm system needs to be tested and that they need to notify the alarm monitoring company. Again, I urge my colleagues' support and cosponsorship of this important consumer protection bill.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM OPERATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, ten years ago, the Congress enacted a landmark law known as the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. This measure created for the first time an organic statute and a mission for the National Wildlife Refuge System. I was proud to have sponsored that legislation and pleased that President Bill Clinton signed into law October 9, 1997.

National wildlife refuges are undeniably unique. They are the only Federal land system established explicitly to conserve wildlife and their habitat. They also provide protection for 260 endangered and threatened species.

A great deal has happened to the refuge system during the past decade. For instance, the size of this unique system of Federal lands has increased from 93 million to 96 million acres and the number of individual refuge

units has grown from 511 to 547. In fact, there is now a National Wildlife Refuge within all 50 States and the U.S. territories and they are within an hour's drive of most major cities.

Four years ago, the National Wildlife Refuge System celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first refuge at Pelican Island, FL, by President Theodore R. Roosevelt. The fundamental purpose of that designation was to protect native wildlife and that goal has not changed for the past 104 years. The unambiguous mission of the system: "Is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

In preparation for the bicentennial, Congress appropriated an historic figure of nearly \$300 million dollars in FY03 and FY04 for refuge operations. This was \$50 million more than had ever been allocated for this essential function.

Sadly, this level was not sustained and refuge operations funding was restored to pre-bicentennial figures soon after the birthday candles were extinguished and the commemorative banners were placed in storage. This appropriation level has remained stagnate for the past 4 years.

While this year's budget contains added revenues for the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request was grossly inadequate. By way of comparison, my colleagues should know that the National Park Service has 20,000 full-time employees, it manages 390 park units and the system is comprised of 85 million acres of which 52.9 million are located in my State of Alaska. By contrast, the Fish and Wildlife Service has 3,687 full-time refuge employees, it manages 547 refuges and the system is comprised of 96 million acres. In FY08, the Fish and Wildlife Service requested \$394.8 million for the Refuge System, while the Park Service requested nearly five times as much, or \$1.9 billion.

While funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System has remained flat, uncontrollable expenses including employee costs and benefits, GSA-rental office space, fuel and energy continue to rapidly grow. In fact, the Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that these costs are about \$40 million each year. It, therefore, does not take a certified public accountant to understand that no entity can continue to operate year-after-year without at least offsetting cost-of-living expenses.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is no exception to this rule. As a result of these declining resources, the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service instructed each of the service's regional directors to implement cost savings or "workforce plans." These plans have now been prepared, submitted, and approved. The net result is that unless an additional \$15 million in new funding is provided each year, the service will lose 439 full-time refuge positions by September 30, 2008. While these reductions represent 20 percent of their total refuge workforce, these vacancies are not uniform throughout the system. For example, the service will lose 28 percent of its refuge staff in Washington State, 29 percent in Idaho and Kansas, 38 percent in Indiana and a staggering 56 percent in Wyoming.

Without these human resources, the 40 million people who visit at least one refuge each

year will find many refuges overgrown, rapidly spreading invasive species, unstaffed refuge headquarters, an absence of law enforcement personnel, abolished environmental education programs, and significantly less opportunities to enjoy wildlife dependent recreation which includes hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography.

Those who visit a wildlife refuge enjoy the experience because they are a haven from our fast paced lives. These wildlands inspire us and keep us connected to the natural world. The American people deserve the finest refuge system in the world and not one that is being stretched beyond its capacity. In addition to not filling vacancies, the public will find that 88 refuges are closed and an increasing number of 188 refuges throughout the country are unstaffed. In short, visitors will travel hundreds of miles to see a refuge and will find much to their frustration that the front gate is locked and no one is there to describe to them the wonders of each of unique place.

Refuges are also important economic engines. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004, refuge visitors generated nearly \$1.4 billion for regional economies, they support 24,000 private sector jobs and \$454 million in employment income was generated.

According to the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, CARE, "the National Wildlife Refuge System faces a crippling conservation deficit." The best illustration of this shortfall was described by the northeast regional director who noted that: "In three years, 74 percent of the national wildlife refuges would be operating either 'in the red' or at crisis levels: In five years, 89 percent; and in seven years, 93 percent."

Within that region, you have the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in northern Virginia. according to a recent article, "A dwindling budget, staff cuts, invasive weeds and crime are bearing down on the refuge, leaving some advocates wondering how visitor services or the health of the land the species depend on will survive". There is no question that the refuge system is in crisis and unless additional revenues are forthcoming this problem will be exacerbated in the near future.

In an effort to provide those additional revenues, I joined with some of my colleagues in urging the House Appropriations Committee to allocate \$451.5 million for refuge operations and maintenance. While this is a step in the right direction, it will not solve the service's long-term funding shortfalls.

We must enact legislation that addressed these funding needs and that is the fundamental goal of the measure I am proposing today. The National Wildlife Refuge System Operations Enhancement Act of 2007 has three major components. The first revenue enhancing measure is to gradually increase the price of a Federal duck stamp from its current rate of \$15 to \$25.

On March 16, 1934, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act was enacted. Under this law, every hunter over the age of 16 is required to purchase a duck stamp each year if they intend to hunt migratory waterfowl. The price of this stamp has been increased by Congress on seven specific occasions over the past 73 years from an initial cost of \$1 in 1934 to its current level of \$15 in 1991. In fact, this is now the longest period in the history of the program without an increase.

Since the inception of the Duck Stamp Program, the Department of the Interior has collected nearly \$750 million from the sale of duck stamps. These monies are deposited in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and they have been used to purchase or lease over 5 million acres of land that has been incorporated within the National Wildlife Refuge System. While the number of duck stamp receipts have varied over the years, the actual number sold has declined from 2.5 million in 1971–1972 to 1.6 million in the 2003–2004 hunting season. For the past 3 years, about \$24 million annually has been deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, an increase in the price of a duck stamp from \$15 to \$20 would raise about \$8 million in new revenues each year and up to \$14 million in new receipts with a price tag of \$25. In short, this provision could provide the Fish and Wildlife Service with a long term revenue source. Under my legislation, however, the money obtained from these increases would not be designated for land acquisition but would be specifically targeted toward refuge operations. The ongoing monies raised from the \$15 would continue to be allocated and spent by the Migratory Bird Commission.

It is my firm belief that instead of acquiring millions of additional acres of Federal lands that we don't have the money to maintain, we would be better served by properly managing those we already own. During the previous congress, there was an effort to raise the price of a Federal duck stamp and this increase was overwhelmingly supported by the hunting and conservation community.

The second provision of this bill would direct the U.S. Postal Service to issue a series of first-class postage stamps depicting various units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These stamps, known as semipostals, would be available to the general public for up to 3 years, the postal service would be permitted to recover any reasonable costs attributable to the printing, sale and distribution of the stamps and there is a sense of Congress that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not suffer any offsetting reductions in its operations account.

This provision is modeled after Congressional efforts to raise money for extremely worthwhile causes like the Stamp Out Breast Cancer, the Heroes of 2001 and Stop Family Violence. These semipostal stamps have raised in excess of \$65 million. While it is difficult to project what a National Wildlife Refuge System semipostal stamp would generate, I would hope that these stamps would be readily available to all Americans including the 40 million people who visit a refuge.

The final provision would establish a national wildlife refuge system checkoff act. This would allow all Americans to checkoff a box on their Federal tax form indicating their desire to contribute \$1 or more of their refund or \$1 or more in additional payment to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This new checkoff program would not create any new Federal programs and would be implemented without cost to our taxpayers. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would pay all reasonable administrative costs involved in changing the tax form, establishing the trust fund, and transferring the voluntary private contributions to the service.

There are currently 36 States that allow their taxpayers to check off private donations

for various State or local wildlife conservation programs. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a unique network of lands that is the only Federal entity designed specifically for wildlife conservation. It is appropriate that U.S. taxpayers have an opportunity to voluntarily contribute to its effective operation in the future.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation 10 years after the anniversary of the signing of the historic Refuge Organic Act and I want to thank my distinguished colleague MIKE THOMPSON of California for joining with me in this effort. It is my hope that this measure will stimulate debate on the funding crisis facing the refuge system and that members of the 21 national conservation, hunting, and scientific organizations that comprise the Care Group including the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Audubon Society, the National Rifle Association, and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance will endorse this approach.

The options are simple: we can find new long-term funding sources or we can allow the operation of the refuge system to continue to deteriorate to the detriment of both wildlife and the 40 million people who utilize these lands. It is my hope that this Congress will move forward to correct this serious and growing problem.

I urge the adoption of the National Wildlife Refuge System Operations Enhancement Act of 2007.

HONORING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE CITIZENS OF ORADELL, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend two organizations that contribute so much to make the small community of Oradell, New Jersey, such a fine place to live, work, and raise a family. Through their commitment to their neighbors, the volunteers and staff at both Bergen SWAN and the Oradell Public Library raise the quality of life in Oradell to a level bar none.

Bergen SWAN, led by its Co-Directors Lori Charkey and Mark Becker, were instrumental in preserving open space and beautifying this quiet little suburb on the outskirts of New York City. Working to coordinate grant money from a variety of sources, Bergen SWAN closed a \$1.2 million land transaction preserving Hague Park. Land that likely would have been subdivided and developed is now enjoyed by all as beautiful parkland.

The Oradell Public Library is a centerpiece of community life in Oradell. Working together, a variety of citizen groups and individual residents raised funds and developed plans to renovate the library. The Steering Committee, led by James and Louise Lessersohn, raised \$500,000 in contributions and gifts, mostly in the form of \$100–500 donations. The library is now updated for the 21st century. And, I commend the Lessersohns; Diane DiGiovanni, president of the board of trustees; Kate McGivern, president of the Library Foundation; and Sally Isaacs, president of Friends of the

Library for their commitment to their community.

RECOGNIZING THE LATE CAPTAIN ANN BERNATITUS AS A MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED IN HER HONOR IN EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the late CAPT Ann Bernatitus of Exeter Borough, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the placement of a monument in her memory in front of her hometown municipal building.

Captain Bernatitus is being honored by the people of Exeter because of her extraordinary service as a United States Navy nurse during the battles of Bataan and Corregidor in the Pacific theater of combat during World War II and also because she was the first person to receive the prestigious Legion of Merit award that was authorized by Congress in 1942. Others who were awarded the Legion of Merit include Dwight D. Eisenhower, George Patton, and Colin Powell.

Captain Bernatitus served as a nurse in the Philippines at the outbreak of the war, always on the front lines of combat. In the citation that accompanied the Legion of Merit award, it was noted that "Nurse Bernatitus courageously withstood the dangers and rigors of tropical combat, rendering efficient and devoted service during the tense days of the prolonged siege and evacuation."

Then a Navy lieutenant, she gained nationwide attention because of her dramatic rescue aboard a U.S. Navy submarine from Corregidor shortly after Japanese forces occupied the island.

Her epic journey aboard the USS *Spearfish* began on May 3, 1942, when Bataan had fallen and Corregidor's fall was imminent. She and 12 other nurses were evacuated and as soon as they were on board the vessel, it was forced to dive to escape the searching lights of the invading Japanese.

During their 17-day saga, the submarine continually ran on the surface from dusk to dawn and submerged during the day to avoid the threat of Japanese surface warships.

Following her arrival in Australia, she was sent home aboard a troop ship, arriving in the United States in July 1942. She was then assigned to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, eventually working with the Navy's public relations department assisting in bond drives.

After 22½ years in the Navy, she retired April 1, 1959, with the rank of captain after which she returned to her home in Exeter. She died in March 2003 at the age of 91.

Captain Bernatitus exemplified a life of fearless and selfless devotion to country and compassion for her fellow Americans. Her personal determination, coupled with her highly skilled nursing ability, was responsible for saving the lives of many American warfighters committed to answering the call to duty following the horrific events at Pearl Harbor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in remembering the many sacrifices made by Captain

Bernatitus on behalf of a grateful Nation and in celebrating her life of service.

WILBUR ARMSTRONG, BLOOD
DONOR HERO

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, throughout history, many legendary heroes were known to provide people with a second chance at life. Today, ordinary heroes are giving millions of people a second chance at life. World Blood Donor Day is a united, global celebration for the voluntary, unpaid individuals who are motivated only by the knowledge that they are helping to improve and save lives of people they may never meet. Awareness of these heroes may hopefully inspire a new generation of blood donors. Today's dedication is jointly coordinated by the World Health Organization, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Society of Blood Transfusion, and the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations. This year's date has special meaning to the healthcare world as it is also the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, the Nobel Prize winner who discovered the ABO blood group system.

This year's focus of World Blood Donor Day is the role of safe blood transfusions in preventing maternal deaths. A new initiative, "Safe Blood for Safe Motherhood" will be launched today by the World Health Organization to improve blood use in obstetric care. More than half a million women die every year due to severe bleeding and complications following childbirth; a severe shortage of safe blood is one of the main reasons.

One of my constituents has taken a strong stand for safe blood donations. At the age of 75 and legally blind, Wilbur Armstrong has been donating to the New York Blood Center since 1974. He travels every other week by three public buses from his home, in Hempstead, roughly an hour and a half each way, to the Lake Success donor site. To date, Mr. Armstrong's donations have benefited more than 600 patients in the community, including chemotherapy patients, hemophiliacs and accident victims. Moreover, Mr. Armstrong was recently recognized by CNN as one of its 44 "CNN's Heroes." The CNN television special was featured worldwide in hopes that Mr. Armstrong's selfless act would help motivate others to do the same. Mr. Armstrong embodies what it means to be a quiet hero with the words, "I don't know who these people are that I'm helping, but if I'm helping somebody. And if helping to keep them alive, it makes me feel good."

While some people are busy living their own lives, others like Wilbur Armstrong are busy giving the gift of life. It is these heroes for whom the world gathers to celebrate World Blood Donor Day today. I urge all Americans to take note and become quiet heroes themselves.

RECOGNIZING DAVID NEELEMAN
ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS
FOUNDER AND CEO OF JETBLUE
AIRWAYS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take the opportunity to honor a dear friend, David Neeleman, on his distinguished accomplishments as Founder and CEO of JetBlue Airways.

I got to know David shortly after he formed JetBlue in 1999. At the time, airline service to and from Rochester was among the most expensive in the country. My constituents often went out of their way to fly from cheaper airports like Toronto or Montreal. Business travelers advised that economic growth in Rochester was limited by a lack of affordable flights to New York City.

David immediately recognized the potential of the Rochester market for an affordable airline. He and I worked closely to bring JetBlue to Rochester in the summer of 2000, and we have since worked together to expand JetBlue service in upstate New York. In its first year operating out of Rochester, JetBlue saved flyers \$12.5 million. JetBlue's success, in turn, brought additional low-cost carries to Rochester and strengthened the regional economy. JetBlue has become New York State's biggest intrastate air carrier in and the largest domestic airline at New York's JFK International Airport.

David formed JetBlue with the goal of offering passengers low fares, friendly service and a high quality product. His success speaks for itself. Consumer Reports recently named JetBlue the number one airline for customer service. The company has been ranked number one in quality and overall performance of U.S. airlines for 3 consecutive years by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Aviation Institute and W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University. JetBlue was also rated "Best Domestic Airline" at Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Readers' Choice Awards, the fifth consecutive year receiving the award.

I was saddened to learn that David decided in May to step down from running the airline every day as CEO to focus on more long-term strategic initiatives for JetBlue as chairman of the board. I credit David for fostering new economic growth in upstate New York, and having the savvy-entrepreneurial skills to build an airline that makes flying fun again. David has assured me that he will remain a very active chairman of the board and that JetBlue's finest days are ahead.

David has been a loyal friend to me and the people of upstate New York. I would like to honor him for his tremendous success as founder and CEO of JetBlue, and I wish him the very best in his tireless pursuit to bring humanity back to airline travel.

HONORING UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD COMMANDER WILLIAM J.
QUIGLEY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to honor the outstanding career of William J. Quigley, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Coast Guard.

CDR William J. Quigley is the Prospective Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cryptologic Group. He assumed his current duties as the Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Commander, Naval Security Group, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland in 2004. Immediately prior to this assignment, he served as Chief, Intelligence Resource Management Office, Intelligence Directorate, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC.

Commander Quigley was born in Lowell, MA, and grew up in Hudson, NH. A 1984 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, Commander Quigley began his career as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Alert (WMEC-630) in Cape May, NJ. Commander Quigley's service included numerous afloat assignments and is a qualified Coast Guard Cutterman.

Commander Quigley's shoreside assignments include duty as a Watch Officer at the Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center in Washington, DC; the supervisor of the Coast Guard Detachment at the Navy Operational Intelligence Center in Suitland, MD; the Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Department of State in Washington, DC, and Chief, Operational Analysis and Planning Division, Office of Operations Strategic and Business Planning, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters.

Commander Quigley holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT, and a master of science degree in strategic intelligence, earned at the Joint Military Intelligence College, Washington, DC. Individual military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Coast Guard Commendation Medal with gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Commander Quigley is married to the former Paula May Harris of Hampden, MA. They currently reside in Millersville, MD, with their two sons, Kyle and Connor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring CDR William J. Quigley, a man whose deep commitment to the United States and the United States Coast Guard has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to our great country.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES
KREPLIN

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles Kreplin's extraordinary record of service to the Weedsport Volunteer Fire Department in my congressional district in upstate New York.

Mr. Kreplin was born in Cleveland, OH, on June 21, 1930. He and his wife Sandra, who were married in 1985, have five children. A Korean war Veteran, he has also served his community as a milk deliveryman, a school bus driver and a cemetery caretaker.

Charles will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his service to the Weedsport Volunteer Fire Department on July 2, 2007. Still one of the most active members of the department, Charles has twice been a recipient of the Fireman of the Year Award. He was also named an American Hero by the Red Cross in 2003. Mr. Kreplin is part of several county and State fire organizations, including the Cayuga County Association of Emergency Services and the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. His 50 years as a firefighter are particularly notable given that the Weedsport Volunteer Fire Department, like many rural fire departments, has struggled to attract and retain volunteers.

Mr. Kreplin's exceptional dedication is to be commended. I am honored to have him protecting constituents in my district, and I would once again like to congratulate him on his 50 years of service. Thank you, Mr. Kreplin, for all you have contributed over your five decades of service to our community.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to salute our soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen of tomorrow—the service academy-bound students of the Third District of the Texas. This Congressional District is home to some of the best and the brightest young people. They are eager and ready to join the premier military force of the world. It is a privilege to send such fine young people on to our Nation's prestigious service academies.

We lift them and their families up in prayer for their future service and sacrifices. I am so very proud of them. God bless them and God bless America. I salute them. The name of each appointee and hometown follows:

United States Air Force Academy: Madison Schottleuther—McKinney; Taylor Soster—Allen; Grace St. Clair—Allen; Stephanie Stanford—Plano; Drew Warwick—Plano; Michael Willcox—McKinney; Evan Wise—Plano.

United States Merchant Marine Academy: Bryce Doganer—Plano; F. Wade (Fred) Wheeler—Plano.

United States Military Academy: Audrey Hansen—Plano; Kane Kimrey—Rowlett; Anne Nagy—McKinney; Ryan Schubert—Plano; Tianyi Xin—Plano.

United States Naval Academy: Erik DeSousa—Plano; Gregory Harrell—Plano; Philip Niche—McKinney; Melanie Pribich—Plano; Ryan Szymaniak—McKinney.

MR. TOM SKERRITT—PARTICIPANT
CITIZEN

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, one of the great strengths of this country is the willingness of its people to give back. We each find our own way to be "participant citizens." On the occasion of the honoring of his lifetime achievement by one of Seattle's great historic organizations, the Rainier Club, the people of the State of Washington would like to hold up as a national inspiration the special record of one of our State's most notable participant citizens, the distinguished and award-winning actor/director/writer and, just as proudly, teacher, Tom Skerritt.

Thanks to Tom Skerritt and great artists like him, Seattle has become a great cutting edge in the forward movement of the performing arts. Its stage innovation has been recognized with Tony Award celebration, including for work in which he participated. And now, in little over 3 years, Mr. Skerritt has created in Seattle a new approach to the teaching and doing of movie-making through his acclaimed the Film School.

To find the artist, to find the teacher, first you find the man.

Tom Skerritt's skills are matched by his unique and innate embodiment of the finest American traits of decency, humanity, strength, humor and integrity, as witness his starring performances in the deeply loved series "Picket Fences," for which he won the Emmy among other honors, "M.A.S.H.," "Alien," "Top Gun," "A River Runs Through It," "The Turning Point," "Steel Magnolias," "Contact," and the remake of "High Noon." Who other than Tom Skerritt could have complemented the portrayal of stand-up American heroism first conveyed by Gary Cooper.

Seattle and the State of Washington hold Tom Skerritt up to the Nation with pride because he is the kind of stand-up hero/humanist he so often and so powerfully portrays. This can best be illustrated by the last and least known of his hyphenated talents alluded to above: Tom Skerritt, teacher. His special brand of give-back to the country and people he loves is his unique ability to perpetuate and to inspire the study of that extraordinarily modern art form so influenced by its practice in America, motion pictures.

One of the significant developments in movie-making in recent decades is that the heart of movie-making, so long associated with and conducted in Hollywood, has now spread out to other parts of the country. The American art form is now an all America art form. And few cities have taken a more active and creative part in this transition, this creative development and envelopment, than the area of Seattle.

A key leader in this evolution has been that master of all movie trades, Tom Skerritt. He is most widely regarded as an actor par excellence, an Emmy winner and an artist of ac-

claim in film, on television, and on the stage. He has been active in passing his emotive skills to young performers. But it is his passion to teach motion picture creation innovatively that has won for his 3-year-old school, appropriately titled the Film School, a pre-eminence and a very special niche. Together with Oscar-winning writer Stuart Stem and such top-of-their-craft creative artists as John Jacobsen, Warren Etheredge, and Rick Stevenson, Skerritt has made the Film School an institution of learning that has broken the mold and has set exciting new high bars for the teaching of film-making as the art of communicated ideas.

The people of Seattle and the State of Washington celebrate Tom Skerritt as an example of how an artist or any person can devise his or her own special way to be a participant citizen. Tom Skerritt inspires each of us to find a personal way to pass along the fervor, dedication and skill that allows us to contribute to a better and more integrated society and to experience the joy of giving back to our country, our resident city and to the wisest application of our profession.

Seattle proudly lays claim to an artist who is at the top of the role model list. Not just his genuine human depth and caring, but the brilliance and natural belief he brings to every one of his acclaimed performances. Thanks to Tom Skerritt and his associates in the Film School, Seattle is becoming a major center for instilling the skills of film art and the joy of that great American spawned art form.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF JOSEPHINE SANTA ANNA, RECIPIENT OF THE OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION AWARD FOR 2007

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Josephine Santa Anna, an outstanding Californian, who has recently been honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging with the Older Americans Recognition Award for 2007. This commendation is given for outstanding community service and recognizes Mrs. Santa Anna's service to the City of Santa Fe Springs, California, which has spanned over five decades.

Mrs. Santa Anna is probably one of the most active older adults residing in the city of Santa Fe Springs. Her daily life is primarily driven by the priorities of each of her volunteer commitments, which have included (in part) serving as a Traffic Commissioner, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Member and an active participant in the city's 50th Anniversary Community Planning Committee. Mrs. Santa Anna was one of a handful of people who volunteered every day for over 3 weeks to decorate the float that showcased the city's 50th anniversary in the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. It was only after becoming physically ill from the fumes of the glue that she finally agreed to stay home, returning a few days later to help organize the city's New Year's Eve party.

Mrs. Santa Anna has been recognized as the most reliable volunteer by two of the most active Senior Citizens' Clubs in the region, the Abraham Lincoln Club and John F. Kennedy Club. In 2006 she was elected by over four hundred seniors to serve in two of the most coveted positions on the Board of Directors for each Club. She has been recognized as the "voice of the seniors" by personally leading and shepherding voter registration drives and absentee ballot campaigns for the elderly.

Mrs. Santa Anna, as a Cuban-American, has a strong passion for social justice issues, which empowers her to advocate on behalf of the elderly and the disenfranchised within her community. She was recently appointed to represent the City's Senior Citizens Advisory Committee as a member of the Seniors Grievance Committee, which addresses difficult and contentious issues for five senior citizens clubs in Santa Fe Springs. According to Santa Fe Springs City Councilmember, Luis M. Gonzalez, "Her amazing mental agility and high physical energy combined with her passionate spirit provide for a truly engaged community gatekeeper who keeps our elected officials on the edge of their seats."

Most importantly, Mrs. Santa Anna (lovingly known as "Fina") embodies the characteristics of a highly respected community leader. She is humble, lovable, and spirited. She is a passionate engine that mobilizes seniors, families, and elected officials for the betterment of Santa Fe Springs.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, her family, friends, and community in honoring Josephine Santa Anna for her service in and contributions to the City of Santa Fe Springs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was on official leave of absence June 12 and 13, 2007, due to a health matter in my family. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 451, 452, 453, 456 and 457 and "no" on rollcall votes 454, 455, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, and 465.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HENDERSON NEVADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Henderson, Nevada, Chamber of Commerce. The Henderson Nevada Chamber of Commerce has been serving the Henderson community as a private, non-profit voluntary organization since 1945. They are committed to the civic, commercial and industrial growth and development of Henderson. Much of the area's economic success is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Chamber.

The members of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce divided themselves into issue committees in order to prepare according to their predominant interests. The following are the committees and those who are leading those committees: Kristine Shattuck—Transportation; D.J. Allen and Francine Mayfield—Education; Scot Muelrath and Bob Unger—Water; David Chavez—Taxes; Ben Brown; and John Holman—Bureau of Land Management; Charles Perry—Homeland Security; Arnold Lopez and Rick Smith—Yucca Mountain; David Dahan—Health Care; and Laird Sanders—Small Business Administration. In addition, Karen Marshall, Alice Martz, Diane Holman, Gayle Rogers, and Richard are contributing to the weeklong event.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor The Henderson Chamber of Commerce. I would like to personally thank all of those participating for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with Members of Congress as well as members of the Administration for the Inaugural Henderson on the Hill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TECHNICAL SERGEANT RYAN BALMER OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Technical Sergeant Ryan Balmer, native son of Mishawaka, Indiana, who died on June 5, 2007 while proudly serving his nation in Kirkuk, Iraq. Ryan risked everything in service to America, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Ryan was stationed at Hill Air Force base in Utah where he lived with his wife, Danielle and their two children Anthony and Gabby. His family, including his mother, Patricia Balmer, was anticipating his scheduled arrival home five days later when they were informed of his death. Danielle had made posters, buttons and banners to welcome Ryan home and had planned to line the road to their home with American flags. She also made a shirt for Gabby that read, "My daddy's finally home."

However, when Danielle saw the uniformed Air Force officers, including Ryan's saddened commanding officer, arrive at her work, she learned he was not coming home. Danielle said, "He died doing what he loved."

Shortly after graduation from Mishawaka High School, Ryan joined the Air Force where he became part of the Office of Special Investigations. His mission was to help identify, investigate and neutralize criminal, terrorist and espionage threats, one of the most dangerous assignments in today's Air Force. At the time of his death, he was serving as a liaison between Iraqi police and U.S. military officials in Kirkuk.

Ryan was killed when the vehicle in which he was riding, the first of a three vehicle convoy, was hit by an improvised explosive device. His commander, General Dana Simmons, called him a "warrior" who made the ultimate sacrifice in his brave performance of duty.

It is my somber duty to honor and remember Ryan and a life cut tragically short. I am saddened by the loss to his family, our com-

munity and our country. We were all blessed by his presence and diminished by his passing.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BARBARA CHRISTEN, DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AND FOUNDER OF "FUTURES AND OPTIONS"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Barbara L. Christen, an extraordinary leader and teacher. Her passionate commitment to excellence in education has inspired countless students and colleagues to realize their dreams. Dr. Christen's remarkable career is being celebrated this month at a reception hosted by Futures and Options, Inc., an outstanding program that provides New York City high schoolers worthwhile opportunities for paid, supervised internships in the business world.

Dr. Christen embarked upon her distinguished career by teaching English in New York City's public high schools. In 1970, she was named Assistant Principal for English at the High School of Art and Design on Manhattan's East Side. Five years later she became the founding Principal of the Murry Bergtraum High School for Business Careers in Lower Manhattan and launched its internationally acclaimed "magnet" program to prepare students for both college admission and entry into the workforce.

As the principal at Bergtraum over the course of a decade and a half, Dr. Christen oversaw the education of a student body of 3,000, one of the largest high schools in our Nation's biggest city. As the educational leader of the first American high school with a dual program preparing students both for college admission and for entry into the business world, Dr. Christen presided over Bergtraum's rapidly expanding application pool while managing a complex educational enterprise during New York City's dire fiscal crisis.

Working with the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, Dr. Christen became a pioneer in establishing public-private partnerships, thereby immeasurably benefitting the school she led as well as its students and teachers. She established a highly successful educational model, introduced an innovative business curriculum, initiated the first high school computer science business program, and secured internships for all Bergtraum students. Dr. Christen thus forged a unique learning experience for her students, one that melded a rigorous and stimulating academic curriculum with exciting opportunities to gain invaluable experience in the business world by working in Lower Manhattan's world-famous business and financial districts.

Following her retirement from New York City's public school system, Dr. Christen continued to put her flair for innovation and enterprise to work helping others achieve their full potential. As the Vice President for Workforce Development at the Alliance for Downtown New York, she created the Futures and Options, Inc. (FAO) paid internship program that was subsequently cited by the U.S. Department of Labor as a model project. Since then,

more than 2,000 students have benefitted from FAO, and its bright future is one of the proudest legacies of her storied career.

A native of the great Empire State, Dr. Christen is a proud graduate of the College of Mount Saint Vincent and performed her graduate studies at the City University of New York, where she earned a masters degree, and at the Teachers College of Columbia University, where she received her Doctorate in Education.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the remarkable successes enjoyed by Dr. Barbara L. Christen in educating and inspiring countless individuals and colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO THE ESSEXVILLE-
HAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I am happy to rise before you and ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to celebrate 50 years of education in the Essexville-Hampton School District. This momentous event will be marked by a "Celebrating Success" event on Saturday, July 7, 2007.

It all began with visionary W.R. Bush, educational leader Quinton E. Cramer, and community leader Mark M. Jaffe. Special thanks go to those who served on the school board in 1955: Melvin Steggall, Austin Nickel, George Ryers, Clifford Mader, and Lowell Cuthbert. On July 1, 1957 their joint efforts created a school district, which joined together the City of Essexville and the Charter Township of Hampton.

The Essexville-Hampton School District began with a small number of students, and has grown to produce over 6,000 graduates. Garber High School, Cramer Junior High School, Hughes Elementary School, Verellen Elementary School, and Bush Elementary School continue to offer a wide variety of curriculum and extracurricular activities. The schools encourage educational exploration and support all facets of the learning process. Today, all five schools in the district are committed to a Pattern of Excellence and are dedicated to providing the richest educational experience possible.

Madam Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Essexville-Hampton School District.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
STEPHANIE N. STEELE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Stephanie N. Steele, of Port St. Lucie, Florida. Ms. Steele was a very talented artist who died recently at just 21 years of age, after fighting a long and valiant battle against cystic fibrosis.

I first became aware of her great courage and remarkable skill in 2002, when she was the subject of a feature story in *The Palm Beach Post*.

Despite her disability, Ms. Steele remained optimistic throughout her short life. She painted beautiful murals that attracted widespread attention and brought cheer to everyone who knew her. Ms. Steele was known for her sparkling personality and her sweet demeanor. In addition to her art, she was an accomplished writer, compiling 27 journals about her life. She underwent two lung transplants, both of which her body rejected.

I join her family and friends in grieving this great loss. It is because of such tragedies that I serve on the Cystic Fibrosis Caucus in the House of Representatives. I will continue to fight for more funding for research into a cure for cystic fibrosis and related diseases.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Stephanie Steele for what she taught us about living with dignity and never admitting defeat. The best way we can honor her memory is to rededicate ourselves to finding a cure for cystic fibrosis so that no one else is taken from us before they can fulfill their life's potential.

TRIBUTE TO PLAUNT
TRANSPORTATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a family business in my district. For 75 years, Plaunt Transportation has ferried people and goods to Bois Blanc Island in Lake Huron, just a few miles north of Cheboygan, Michigan. For those 75 years, through four generations of Plaunts, the company has remained in one family.

Bois Blanc Island sits about 2½ miles east of Mackinac Island in Lake Huron. While the island is home to only about 25 to 30 year-round residents, during the summer, the population swells to 1,500.

Plaunt Transportation traces its roots to 1932, when Charles Plaunt began transporting supplies and eight passengers to this remote island on his ferry, the *Margaret*. It was that same year, 1932, that Charles Plaunt took over the contract to deliver mail from mainland Cheboygan to Bois Blanc Island. In 1934, the *Adventure* was put into service, carrying up to 20 passengers. In 1937, the *Adventure* was replaced by the *Ada M*, which was named for Charles' wife.

From its earliest days, Plaunt Transportation has been a family business in every sense of the word. Charles' son, Ray, began helping his father on the boat in 1937. At that time, there were only two bags of mail to deliver. Charles would deliver one bag of mail to the post office and Ray would drive the Model T to the Coast Guard Station on Bois Blanc and deliver the second bag.

During World War II, Charles' four sons were away defending our Nation in the war. During this 4-year period, Charles' teenage daughter, Ethelyn, helped out on the boat, first as a deckhand and, eventually, steering the boat. Together, Ethelyn and her father braved storms and the freezing lake to ferry passengers and U.S. mail from the mainland to the island.

Ray Plaunt took over the business from his father in 1948, a year before Charles passed away. In 1954, Ray had the *Char-Leann II* built in Holland, Michigan. The boat, named for his daughters, could carry 28 passengers or 1 vehicle and 6 passengers. To accommodate the changing needs of the island, a barge was used to carry additional vehicles and equipment.

Plaunt Transportation incorporated in 1979, and put into service the *Chee-Maun-Nes*, which carried 2 vehicles and 49 passengers.

Ray's son, Curt, bought the business from his father in 1987. Curt had a boat designed and built in Warren, Rhode Island in 1987. He named it the *Kristen D* after his daughter. The *Kristen D* could carry 8 vehicles and 49 passengers.

In 1998, the *Kristen D* was lengthened by 30 feet in Escanaba, Michigan, making it easier to carry heavy equipment, as well as semi-cement and garbage trucks. The vessel can accommodate 17 vehicles and 149 passengers. Ray's son, Curt, bought the business from his father in 1987. Ray's grandsons, Ryan McLaren and Jason Plaunt, are both fourth generation licensed boat captains. Another captain, Brent Sharpe, is not a Plaunt, but has worked with the Plaunt family for so long he is considered a member of the family.

While they cannot put an exact figure on it, Curt and Ray estimate that together they have made over 50,000 trips across Lake Huron Bois Blanc Island. Today, customers continue each day to board the *Kristen D* and take the 40 minute ride from the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula to Bois Blanc Island. It appears the Plaunt family legacy will continue: Charles Plaunt's great-great grandson has already decided at the age of 4 that when he grows up he, too, would like to be a boat captain.

Madam Speaker, family businesses are, in many ways, the core of the American system of enterprise. Since our country's inception, in the biggest American cities and the smallest towns, businesses run by families have built and maintained the infrastructure of our economy. No better example can be found of a family driven entrepreneurial spirit than the Plaunts. Their four generations of dedicated service to Cheboygan and to Bois Blanc Island are to be admired. In frozen lakes, through blinding rain, in good weather and in bad, for three-quarters of a century, the Plaunts have kept Bois Blanc Island in touch with the mainland. As Plaunt Transportation celebrates their 75th year of service, I would ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting them.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNSUNG
HEROES HELPING HEROES, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes, Inc., an outstanding organization that provides assistance to sick and injured 9/11 responders and works to help secure proper health care and compensation for the thousands of men and women who are

struggling with serious health problems caused by 9/11. In particular, I would like to recognize the achievements of the Co-Founders of *Unsung Heroes*, John Sferazo and Marvin Bethea, as well as the organization's treasurer, Mike Arcari, and secretary, Julie Hernandez.

John Sferazo arrived at Ground Zero on the morning of September 12th. A structural iron worker, John immediately began removing crushed vehicles from the site. For the next 30 days, John cut through and removed iron and steel to try to rescue or recover those trapped under the pile. John suffered significant damage to his lungs as a result of his work and has not been able to perform his regular job since August 1, 2004. Since that time, he has poured his considerable energies into helping others, primarily through his work as the President of *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes*.

An independent paramedic with a private hospital, Marvin Bethea was dispatched to Ground Zero on September 11th by the New York City Fire Department. Marvin was a block away from Ground Zero when the first tower fell. He was buried in the lobby of a nearby bank building, but was able to get out and attend to the medical needs of people nearby. When the second Trade Center tower collapsed, Marvin was again covered in debris. Marvin returned to Ground Zero on September 14th to continue giving medical assistance to victims and to rescue workers. Five weeks later, he suffered a stroke attributed to 9/11. Like his friend and colleague John Sferazo, he has since worked tirelessly, despite major, persistent health problems, to help others.

In a few short years, *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes* has established an impressive track record of advocacy on the city, state and federal levels. In 2006, the organization worked with the State of New York to extend the deadline for 9/11 responders to apply for workers' compensation benefits. I was proud to work with *Unsung Heroes* in our successful campaign to provide the very first federal funding for 9/11 health care needs. In support of their very worthy cause, John and Marvin have organized countless press conferences, rallies and fundraisers, and have lobbied officials on all levels of government.

Madam Speaker, as John and Marvin and their colleagues would no doubt tell you, we are in the middle of a gathering health crisis. The deaths of at least eight 9/11 responders have been widely documented in the media, although I believe that there are many more untimely deaths out there that have yet to come to light. I strongly believe that we must act now to make sure that tragedies like these never happen again. If we fail to meet our obligation to care for those sickened or injured by 9/11, I fear that no one will be either willing or able to help in the event of a future disaster.

I believe that all Americans should be proud of leaders like John Sferazo and Marvin Bethea and their colleagues at *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes*, who have dedicated themselves to making sure that in America, we will take care of those who take care of us. Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes, Inc.*

HONORING FORMER BAY CITY
MAYOR ROBERT KATT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I am happy to rise before you and ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to honor former Bay City Mayor Robert Katt.

Robert Katt was born in Pontiac, Michigan on July 30, 1942. His family then moved to Bay City where he attended Washington Elementary School. In 1960 Mr. Katt graduated from Bay City Central High School. He went on to attend Delta College before joining the U.S. Army. Bob served his country in the U.S. Medical Corps from 1962 to 1965. During that time, he married his wife Barbara. He is also survived by two children and two grandchildren.

In 1981 Robert Katt decided to further serve his community and was elected Bay County Commissioner. He served as 6th Ward Bay City Commissioner from 1987 to 1993 and from 1995 to 2003. Bob served as Commission President from 1991 to 1993 and from 2000 to 2003. In 2003 Mr. Katt decided to begin his campaign for Bay City Mayor, and was elected to the position in November of that year, where he remained until his death in 2006.

Aside from his elected positions, Mayor Katt was active throughout his community. He was affiliated with the Bay City Central Booster Club and served as chairman of the South End Citizens District Council. Bob was a member of UAW Local 362, having worked at General Motors Corporation for 38 years.

Madam Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Katt and his legacy to Bay City, Michigan.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. RUTH
ZISES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Ruth Zises, a dear friend and role model, who sadly succumbed to illness earlier this year.

Ruth was a unique woman whose presence brightened the faces and warmed the hearts of everyone she encountered. Ruth was a deeply principled woman who wore her passions with profound pride. She was enormously dedicated to her family and friends and intensely devoted to her beliefs. Ruth translated her convictions into action by founding, together with her family, the Genesis Center in Jerusalem, an academy devoted to enhancing the lives of young adults by incorporating Jewish scholarship with civic engagement and political action. Ruth's service and support of countless other institutions, organizations and charities made her a model of generosity.

While Ruth's attention to the needs of her community was commendable, her family was always the focal point of her life. Ruth's devo-

tion to her husband Bernie, sons Selig, Seymour and Jay, her nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren inspired all who knew her.

Madam Speaker, words can not capture the generosity of spirit and warmth that Ruth Zises exuded. All that can be said is that she will be terribly missed by the scores of people fortunate enough to have had known her.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and remembering the exemplary life of Ruth Zises.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
TODD R. SMITH

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Todd R. Smith for his extraordinary service as Commander of Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) in Crane, Indiana. Colonel Smith has been selected to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. Rock Island's gain is Crane Army's loss. I know I speak for everyone at Crane when I say that Colonel Smith leaves a strong legacy of achievement and CAAA is a more efficient operation because of his leadership and service.

Colonel Smith, a native of Bluefield, West Virginia, arrived at Crane Army in July 2004 as a highly regarded and decorated leader in the Army having served in leadership positions in Germany, Korea and the U.S. He also commanded the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant in Texarkana, Texas from July 1999 to July 2001. Prior to arriving at CAAA, Colonel Smith served as Chief, C/J4 Munitions Division, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea.

Colonel Smith's vision and leadership at Crane Army, particularly through his focused implementation of the Lean Six Sigma and Continuous Improvement, has resulted in the creation of an organizational culture that resulted in increased efficiency and quality of service throughout all operational areas at CAAA. In fact, Colonel Smith was able to decrease annual project costs by \$2.6 million while maintaining the expected high level of production.

The Crane Continuous Improvement program highlights the determined leadership Colonel Smith has provided at CAAA. Under his leadership, CAAA has produced 6 Lean Six Sigma Black Belts, 40 Lean Six Sigma Green Belts, 22 Lean Six Sigma Executive Leaders, and 24 Lean Six Sigma Project Sponsors. CAAA's establishment of the Ammunition, Transportation, Tracking, and Control Center (ATTACC) remains the hallmark of the Continuous Improvement program. ATTACC, located on base at CAAA, allows depot operators to utilize proactive logistics through a shared computer application. The result is more accurate schedules and efficient planning for the processing of ammunitions receipts and issues. ATTACC is a sterling example of Crane Army's mission statement, "Only Our Best for the World's Best!"

It is a testament to Colonel Smith's leadership that CAAA has been nationally recognized for excellence. CAAA was honored with

a 2006 White House Closing the Circle Award for environmental contributions by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive. CAAA was also honored in 2006 with the Indiana Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. On a personal level, Colonel Smith has been awarded with many honors throughout his distinguished career in the Army. Among these awards are the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Parachute Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Madam Speaker, I commend Colonel Smith for his outstanding service to his country and to Crane Army. I wish him the best as he takes his new leadership position with the Joint Munitions Command.

TRIBUTE TO FLAG DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on June 14, we will once again celebrate our National Flag, Old Glory itself. In West Virginia, we love our flag. We fly it with pride, and treat it with the reverence that such a flag, which thousands of brave West Virginians have fought and died to protect, deserves.

We understand that the flag is not just a patchwork of fabric and embroidery. It is the very embodiment of our country's values, our freedom, our hopes, our dreams, and our pride. The Stars and Stripes are a sign of our nation's rich heritage. The thirteen stripes and the 50 stars are the embodiment of America itself. The twinkle in each West Virginian's eye, and the blood and sweat from our hard-working men and women are represented in the red, white, and blue that hangs over our porches, flies proudly in our ballparks, and drapes the coffins of our fallen heroes.

Harrowing events often serve to remind us of the importance of our flag. We can all recall the image of six brave soldiers raising the flag of the United States atop Mount Suribach during the Battle of Iwo Jima. And none of us will forget the tattered Stars and Stripes raised by three weary firemen over the remains of the World Trade Center to honor the thousands who perished on September 11th.

The Stars and Stripes are more than just a sign of our heritage—they represent our hopes and dreams, and the pride of our nation. The flag was the inspiration for our Star Spangled Banner, and will always be the focal point when we recite our Pledge of Allegiance.

For these reasons, and so many more, I have always fought for a Constitutional amendment to protect our flag from desecration. I believe one absolute truth of being a citizen of the United States of America is that our flag, the symbol of the sacrifices, which so many gave to preserve our freedom, must be protected from such abuse.

Perhaps the nineteenth-century writer Henry Ward Beecher described it best: "A thoughtful mind when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag but the Nation itself. He reads chiefly in the flag, the government, the principles, the truths, the history that belongs to the nation that sets it forth. The American flag has been the symbol of Liberty and men rejoiced in it."

May we all take heed to the wise words of Mr. Beecher as we fly the Stars and Stripes high and proud, not just today, but every day.

IN HONOR OF JOAN LUNDY—JUNE
16, 1938—JUNE 7, 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joan Lundy, a passionate community activist and loving family woman, who passed away on June 7, 2007. Family and friends will gather on Saturday, June 16, in Los Angeles to honor Joan's full life which was marked by dedicated community leadership, a devoted family and tireless advocacy.

Mother Teresa is known to have said: "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." Joan never waited for leaders to enact what she knew was right, instead she became a leader and influenced people one-by-one throughout her life. When she passed away at the age of 68 she had bestowed her strength and wisdom unto many through the years.

In the early 1980s, after raising her five children, Joan put herself through California State University of Los Angeles' geology program, and went on to practice engineering geology for many years—a career in which she thrived.

Joan possessed a passion for fairness and social justice throughout her life—she served as the president of her community parent teacher association and worked to desegregate schools in Altadena. Her community activism continued to flourish when she moved to Northeast Los Angeles in 1987. She led the Glassell Park Improvement Association for more than a decade and was president from 1996 to 1999. Joan spearheaded the effort to adorn neighborhood streets with beautiful, flowering jacaranda trees. The rows of jacarandas that were planted along San Fernando Road and Eagle Rock Boulevard have become a well-recognized symbol of Glassell Park. In the spirit of community pride and improvement, Joan negotiated the upgrading of Glassell Park's community center and the completion of many public works projects.

Joan was the best kind of constituent any elected representative could ask for: she not only committed herself to creating solutions for the community and presenting them to her representatives, she also knew how to mobilize her friends and neighbors toward civic engagement.

I extend my deepest sympathies to her beloved husband, Bill; her children: Beth Oberholtzer, John Oberholtzer, Laurie Oberholtzer, Margie Oberholtzer, and the late Tim Oberholtzer; and her 10 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is with heartfelt sorrow, yet deep pride and admiration, that I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Joan Lundy. Her influence lives on, especially in those hearts and minds she touched so deeply in Glassell Park and Northeast Los Angeles.

CLOSE "HUMMER TAX LOOPHOLE"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to close the "Hummer Tax Loophole," which fixes a serious mistake in the Tax Code that provides an additional incentive for business purchases of luxury SUVs weighing over 6,000 pounds, such as the Hummer. This legislation is co-sponsored by my colleagues ED MARKEY, RAHM EMANUEL, and ALLISON SCHWARTZ.

The tax code allows small businesses to get a tax break for vehicles they use in business. In 1984, a limitation was put in place to make sure businesses didn't just buy luxury vehicles and write them off. These vehicles were described as under 6,000 lbs because, at that time, luxury vehicles over 6,000 lbs were not as pervasive. Today, there are many luxury SUVs that are more than 6,000 lbs, such as the BMW X5, the Hummer H1 and H2, and the Cadillac Escalade. Buying these vehicles entitles small businesses to an extra tax break, which constitutes the loophole.

This legislation closes the Hummer Tax Loophole by applying the limitation that currently applies to vehicles under 6,000 pounds to those over 6,000 lbs. In other words, businesses will no longer have an incentive to buy the biggest, most gas guzzling SUV on the market. Legislative language and regulations would guarantee that the limitation not apply to trucks or vans used for legitimate business purposes, such as farm vehicles, fork lifts, cranes and derricks, school buses, flatbed trucks, cement mixers, and other vehicles as designated by the IRS.

This bill will make sure that U.S. tax policy no longer encourages the purchase of the heaviest, most polluting, and least fuel-efficient vehicles for business use.

IN PRAISE OF THE MUSEUM OF
THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS
IN WARSAW, POLAND

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland.

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to Poland, and I was deeply inspired by my meeting with Jerzy Halbersztadt, the Executive Director of the Museum, and Ewa Wierzynska, the Deputy Director. I commend them for their extraordinary hard work and vision in bringing this museum to life. A groundbreaking ceremony for the museum, located in the heart of the pre-World War II Jewish district, will be held on June 26th. I also commend the municipality of Warsaw and the Government of Poland for supporting the establishment of this important institution.

Jews arrived in the medieval Kingdom of Poland almost one thousand years ago, as they escaped persecution in neighboring countries. Indeed, the Hebrew word for Poland is

“Polin,” which some translate as “here you shall rest.” But while everyone in Poland learns about the Holocaust, many people know little about the lives of the Jews before they met their death in the concentration camps of Nazi occupiers. This rich history spanning a thousand years must be reclaimed. Indeed, understanding the travesty of the Holocaust requires a full understanding of what was destroyed.

Accordingly, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews will commemorate the 3 million Polish Jews who died in World War II. It will also celebrate the nearly one thousand years of proud Jewish culture in Poland.

In addition, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews will enhance understanding of Jewish history and cultural roots at a time when anti-Semitism is growing throughout Europe. As a former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and now as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am heartened by the educational role this museum can play in fulfilling the goals that the OSCE participating States have undertaken in the field of combating anti-Semitism.

This museum has been some years in coming. In 1996, Yeshayahu Weinberg, a founding director of Tel Aviv’s Diaspora Museum and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, created an international team of experts with the goal of establishing a museum to display and preserve artifacts which showcase the extensive culture of the Jewish people in Poland. In 1997, the Warsaw City Council donated 13,000 square meters of land for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews inside the old Jewish Quarter and opposite the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Memorial. In 2005, an

international architectural competition selected a Finnish firm to design the building housing the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The astounding architecture remarkably represents the parting of the Red Sea through ingenious use of mortar, steel and space.

Approximately 500,000 visitors are anticipated to visit the museum each year. Visitors will take a virtual journey through a world where Jews experienced not only persecution and poverty but perseverance and success. If all goes as planned, the museum will open in 2009 with initial costs funded primarily by the governments of Poland and Germany, and through private donations from Jewish communities around the world.

Madam Speaker, it is estimated that eighty percent of all Jews and over 9 million Americans trace some of their ancestry to the Polish Jewish community. This museum has the potential to touch the lives of our own citizens in deeply personal ways. I look forward to visiting it myself.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LARRY
HIMMELSBACH

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Larry Himmelsbach on the occasion of his retirement as Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Operations. Larry is a tireless “public servant who has dedicated his professional

life to preserving the security of our nation’s government and the American public.

After graduating from Holy Cross in 1974 with a degree in Political Science, Larry began his career at the FBI, located in what is now the Ford House Office Building. He served there for 1 year in the fingerprint division before joining the newly created Atomic Energy Commission in 1975, where he served as a security specialist and held a myriad of positions in the Division of Security. The dedication he exhibited early in his professional life to maintaining our national security would be a common thread throughout his career.

In 1985, Larry joined the U.S. Department of Energy, where he held several senior positions in emergency operations and threat assessment. In 2002, he accepted the position of Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Operations within the House. In his role with OEPPPO, which was created as a result of the attack on 9/11 and the anthrax incident in October 2001, Larry has been an integral part of carrying out the agency’s mission of creating a comprehensive emergency management plan for the House.

Madam Speaker, whether protecting the public from the threat of nuclear terrorism, or ensuring the continuity of our constitutional form of government, Mr. Himmelsbach has always answered the call to serve.

On behalf of myself, my colleagues in this chamber, and the American public, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Larry Himmelsbach for his 33 years of public service, and for ensuring the safety and security of our great Nation.