

works tirelessly both in the U.S. and Guyana to further her ministry as a wise and caring counselor to all.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for her kindness and compassion.

CONGRATULATING PRESA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Presa Community Center on 30 years of outstanding service to the Southside community of San Antonio.

In 30 years, the Presa Community Center has grown from a small collaborative effort between five local churches able to lend a hand to a few needy families to an organization with the ability to help hundreds of people daily. The Presa Community Center has successfully developed multi-faceted programs for our community, including educational enrichment programs for students, emergency food and clothing assistance for families, free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Program, and many senior programs like coordinated transportation to medical appointments, activities and food assistance, just to name a few.

Just in the past year, Presa Community Center has developed three innovative programs to provide additional services to the community of South San Antonio. One is Project Drive to Live which takes court officials directly into the classrooms with senior and junior high students to address underage drinking and driving under the influence. The second program is designed to keep fourth through sixth grade students in school by building a support network for children and their parents with volunteer mentors and staff. The third program brings the services of the Presa Community Center directly into the community by teaming up trained volunteers with families in need to help locate available resources and become financially stable.

The successes of the Presa Community Center are a result of effective partnership with many community organizations and local governments including United Way, University of Incarnate Word, Presa Real, San Antonio Independent School District, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Warm Spring Rehabilitation Hospital, and San Antonio City and Bexar County officials.

Congratulations to the Presa Community Center and all of the partners that have been vital to the development of this community resource. As a resident of South San Antonio, I would like to thank the Presa Community Center, its partner organizations, and all the hard working staff for their 30 years of dedication to the community and I look forward to many more years of continued work in our community.

SBA VETERANS' PROGRAMS ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2366, the SBA Veterans' Programs Act of 2007. This legislation will assist our soldiers when they return home with opportunities and information about starting a small business.

More than a million and a half men and women have answered the call to serve their country since 2001. They interrupted their careers, put their families economic security at risk, and face big personal challenges upon returning home.

I recently visited Iraq and Afghanistan. That trip gave me an even greater appreciation for the significant sacrifices our soldiers must make and must cope with for the rest of their lives. If our soldiers faced mortal danger every day abroad, let us help them have economic security when they return home.

It isn't just the veteran who makes the sacrifice, their families do as well: their parents, their spouses, their children, girlfriends and boyfriends and siblings. They give up so much in defense of our country.

It is our job, as Members of Congress, to make sure that our Nation lives up to its commitment to our veterans. It is a simple pact we have made with our troops—and one we are obligated to fulfill: after they have sacrificed to serve our country on the battlefield, we must do all we can to serve them here at home. The cost of any war must include caring for the warrior.

This legislation helps our veterans get started with business opportunities in their communities. It does so by providing grants, information services, and personal assistance to help veterans evaluate business opportunities; increasing the number of veteran business outreach centers around the country, and encouraging further assistance to women veterans.

Countless soldiers are returning from their tours of duty with new confidence and skills developed during their time in the military. This SBA program will help to ensure that those new abilities are put to good use when they return to civilian life.

This bill because it is the right thing to do for those who have given so much but also because it will directly impact Vermont and every state around the country. Ninety-seven percent of all Vermont firms are small businesses. My office has been involved in helping the Vermont Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) run business readiness classes for veterans. The Vermont SBDC is the primary small business assistance resource sought out by small business clients, lenders, government agencies and other economic development partners. The Vermont SBDC is the keystone in a statewide business assistance infrastructure tying together all appropriate resources and serving as a "one-stop" gateway and clearinghouse to serve small businesses' needs. Drawing on collaborative relationships among service providers, Vermont SBDC leverages economic development resources of all kinds for advancement of small businesses, growing the local economy.

Roughly 6 percent of deployed soldiers have small businesses depending on them. Veterans face a number of unique challenges, from increasing lengths and number of deployments overseas, to translating their military experience into business ventures. Yet, there is a lack of substantive programs to help these businesses survive through deployment, and to assist veterans returning home. This program is designed to meet current, real-time needs of people on active duty in business who now need to leave for protracted periods, or for those who have just come back and really "need" to do something new with their lives.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2366.

A TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS
MCARTHUR NELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the work and achievements of Douglas McArthur Nelson. Douglas, a Brooklyn transplant, is a native of Eau Gallie, FL. Upon his arrival to Brooklyn, he attended Junior High School in East New York, Brooklyn, and was later recruited by New York City Public School's legendary football coach Moe Finkelstein at Thomas Jefferson High. Douglas was the star running back on the varsity team that won the P.S.A.L. He was later a starting fullback for 3 years at the University of Iowa.

Douglas McArthur Nelson began his career in law enforcement for the Iowa Department of Corrections and Parole. He transferred those skills to Crisis Intervention, Addiction Counseling, and Juvenile Habilitation. He was able to enhance his talent for leadership during his 20 years of active involvement in church and community services in both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Douglas McArthur Nelson returned to Brooklyn 16 years ago and has continued to fulfill his mission for human services in Crisis Intervention, Addiction and Substance Abuse Counseling, Employee Mentoring, Coaching and Leadership Development for a large treatment facility.

Douglas McArthur Nelson currently serves as the Program Director for the Berean Community Family Life Center, BCFLC, which was created as a non-profit community development corporation by the historic Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

Douglas McArthur Nelson left the private sector in July of 2006 to work for the Berean Baptist Church's First Lady Angela Farr Griffin, the Executive Director of the BCFLC and Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., who is the President of American Baptist Churches, Pastor of Berean and President of the BCFLC's Board of Directors. Douglas is the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry of Berean Baptist Church and is active with the Men's Caucus for the Unity Democratic Club.

Douglas McArthur Nelson is strong, gentle and devoted husband to Lynn and father of Ruperta, Denise, and Adrian. His 5-year-old granddaughter has lovingly dubbed him "the weakest link." He is an avid gardener, poet, and artist.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Douglas McArthur Nelson for his contributions to our community and for his years of service at Berean Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Douglas McArthur Nelson.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, today is World Refugee Day, a day of honoring the courage and raising the plight of more than 8 million refugees and 23.7 million internally displaced persons around the world. This year, on the sixth anniversary of the United Nations-designated World Refugee Day, organizations in hundreds of countries will come together to focus global attention on those refugees who have been displaced by natural disasters or were forced to leave their homes, native countries, and loved ones due to the political, ethnic or religious oppression and persecution they would have faced otherwise.

The United States historically has led efforts to assist various refugee populations, as exemplified through U.S. efforts to assist Vietnamese refugees in the late 1970s. Now, in the 21st century, the U.S. has a particularly compelling reason to focus on the Iraqi refugee crisis. Approximately 2 million Iraqi refugees have fled persecution, violence, threats of kidnapping and death threats, mostly moving to Syria and Jordan. The threats have been dire for ethnic and religious minorities. At least 1.9 million people are displaced within Iraq. Many of these 3.9 million have been targeted due to their work for the U.S. Government, NGOs or the media.

There have been important steps taken in Congress to address the concerns of refugees related to Afghanistan and Iraq, such as encouraging the provision of special immigrant status for translators or interpreters serving with Federal agencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, since 2003, the U.S. Government has allowed only 466 Iraqi refugees to enter the U.S. It is important that the U.S. initiate more active measures to assist these refugees, such as increasing the number of Iraqis that are brought into the resettlement program. During a recent trip to the Middle East, I heard stories of Iraqi refugees and the dire threats that forced them to flee their homeland.

Madam Speaker, in addition to spotlighting the situation of Iraqi refugees, it is vital that the international community continue to shine a spotlight on the situation facing refugees from and displaced persons in Burma. The military dictatorship continues its campaign against the ethnic peoples through forced labor, the use of rape as a weapon of terror, destruction of food sources, destruction of over 3,000 villages in the last few years, and the use of ethnic peoples as human land mine sweepers. Unfortunately, certain countries believe it is in their interest to keep this regime in power—I would heartily disagree. The refugee and displacement crisis in Burma could be resolved immediately if the regime were to step down and allow the rightfully elected leaders of Burma to take office.

World Refugee Day is a day for the international community, governments and citizens alike, to show our common concern for refugees and displaced persons. Most people in the world would love to stay in their homeland, but frequently conflicts and other situations force them to leave. Our country was founded by people fleeing oppression. The U.S. must continue to be the global leader in refugee protection in the Middle East, in Southeast Asia, and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "RED" PENSINGER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Robert "Red" Pensinger, former mayor of Greencastle, PA. Mayor Pensinger passed away in his home on Saturday, June 16. Born in Marion, PA, on February 22, 1933, Mayor Pensinger spent his life in the Greencastle area as a civic leader and successful businessman.

"Red," as he was lovingly called, brought great enthusiasm and esteem not only to his office as mayor, but to his many other activities within the community as well. Robert dedicated his life to the betterment of his community, giving his time and energy to various organizations. He influenced and mentored hundreds of young people through his participation in the Boy Scouts of America, of which he was a Scout master, and Kauffman's Little League team, which he managed. Members of the community also looked up to "Red," recognizing and appreciating his devotion to the town, his positive outlook and pleasant demeanor.

The former mayor was also a leader in business, establishing a State Farm Insurance Agency in Greencastle in 1965 and leading it to become the largest agency in Pennsylvania and the fifth largest in the Nation. He served in the State Farm President's Club and was a six-time Legion of Honor winner. In addition to operating his insurance agency, Robert served as vice-chairman of the board of directors for Tower Bancorp Inc. and the First National Bank of Greencastle. He served on the Chamber of Commerce, which awarded him with the 1997 James P. Oliver Award for his leadership and community involvement.

While I could go on listing the countless organizations and people to whom "Red" gave his time and energy, it is safe to say that his contributions to the Greencastle community are endless. Robert touched the lives of thousands and impacted each one of them tremendously. Mayor Pensinger served as a role model for many, and it is my hope that those who were lucky enough to know him will continue his legacy and enthusiasm for bettering the community and the lives of others.

Robert's wife, Nancy, and his family and friends are certainly proud and honored by his remarkable work and devotion to improving the lives of others. His community service and achievements are remarkable, and his presence will be sorely missed. Robert Pensinger was a celebrated leader in business and the community, and words cannot express his value to the people of Greencastle or their love and devotion to their late mayor.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN COREY PEGUES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the work and achievements of Captain Corey Pegues. Corey, born and raised in Queens, New York, was a student of the public school system. He graduated from high school in 1986, and subsequently enlisted in the United States Army.

As a member of the Army, Corey assumed the position of Medical Specialist after receiving training at Fort Sam Houston. Corey was assigned to a Calvary Unit in Fort Drum, New York, and remained there until his honorable discharge in 1991. After leaving the U.S. Army, he enlisted in the New York State National Guard, and remained with the National Guard for 14 years. As an example of Corey's devotion to civil service, he also decided to enroll in the New York City Police Academy while still serving in the National Guard.

Corey was able to maintain the same exceptional quality of work that has defined his career, while serving in both the National Guard and the New York City Police Department. The NYPD promoted Corey to the rank of Sergeant in 1998, and Lieutenant in 2002. Captain Pegues assumed many positions within the NYPD, including Lieutenant Platoon Commander, Special Operations Lieutenant and Administrative Lieutenant.

In 2006, the NYPD once again promoted Corey; this time, to the rank of Captain. After 11 months, Corey was transferred to a new police station where he now serves as Commanding Officer. For the past two years, in addition to his role as a law enforcement official, Captain Pegues has also served his community as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Monroe Community College.

Corey also serves as the President and Founding Member of the Long Island Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives—a nationally recognized organization that consists of many chapters across the country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Captain Corey Pegues for his constant desire to protect and serve the citizens of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Captain Corey Pegues.

BINGE DRINKING AND LEGAL AGE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in 1984, President Reagan signed the 21 minimum drinking age into law, saying "This problem is bigger than the individual States. It's a grave national problem, and it touches all our lives. With the problem so clear-cut and the proven solution at hand, we have no misgiving about this judicious use of Federal power. I'm convinced that it will help persuade State legislators to act in the national interest to save our children's