

while protecting the American people and keeping our vibrant North Texas community safe. Wes impacted the lives of many people and he will be dearly missed.

He is the second police officer in Plano to die in the line of duty, the first one since 1920. His death has truly rocked the area. To his family—please know that Shirley and I grieve Officer Hardy's death. We grieve for you. We grieve with you. And we lift you and your daughters up in prayer.

Wes was a shining example of public service and inspiring courage. God bless him and God bless America.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. FERNANDO REY

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to pay tribute to a man who exemplifies leadership, Mr. Fernando Rey of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Rey was born in 1940 in Southern California and comes from a family of veterans with his father and seven uncles having served in World War II. While he was unable to serve in the armed forces, he remained dedicated to commemorating the sacrifices of others by becoming a lifelong historian of World Wars I and II.

For nearly two decades, Mr. Rey has worked to bring recognition to our nation's Medal of Honor recipients for their valor and bravery.

The Heroes & Heritage organization was founded in 1995 in order to recognize the achievements of our military heroes and to encourage higher standards of education for our youth. Thanks to Mr. Rey's leadership as Executive Director, the Heroes & Heritage organization gained a reputation for having a direct and positive impact on the future of our armed forces and the community of San Antonio.

Mr. Rey's displayed outstanding and natural leadership in the planning and coordination of the Department of Defense's participation in the first student career fair and symposium presented by Heroes & Heritage. By exposing hundreds of college and high school students to career and employment opportunities in military science and technologies, Mr. Rey immeasurably expanded their horizons and opened the doors to endless possibilities.

As a motivational speaker, Mr. Rey helps many high school and university students understand the importance of patriotism and service to our country by sharing and thus preserving the legacy of our distinguished veterans.

Recently, Mr. Rey was presented with a Certificate of Special Achievement from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness for his accomplishments and contributions.

I congratulate Mr. Fernando Rey, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director for Educational Programs with Heroes & Heritage, for this well-deserved recognition.

COMMENDING THE MUNTU DANCE  
THEATRE OF CHICAGO

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, great societies are often described by their cultural attributes which are often weaved into the fabric of a community, a city and a nation bringing joy, satisfaction and hope into the hearts and minds of the people. Such has been the case and the experiences of the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago which was founded in 1972 and has developed a remarkable history and a great legacy.

The Muntu Dance Group is more than dances, they are a concept, an embodiment of psychic movement. They are a program, a place, an opportunity for young people, for people of all ages to be engaged, involved and influenced. Madam Speaker, the Muntu is an art form to be copied, preserved and proliferated throughout the world and that is why their capital campaign is so vitally important.

The Muntu Group is well into a \$17 million capital campaign to build its own performing center at 71st and Ellis on the South Side of Chicago. The Muntu Dance Group has come a long way in 35 years and I am pleased to commend and congratulate them on their outstanding achievement.

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AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT'S BENEFITS TO AFRICA

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This law provides duty-free and quota-free access to the U.S. market for certain goods from designated countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It was based on the congressional finding that it is in the mutual interest of the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development on the continent. The criteria for beneficiary countries includes evidence of progress toward a market-based economy, rule of law, economic policies to reduce poverty and promote economic growth, a system to combat corruption and bribery, and protection of internationally recognized worker and human rights.

The recent report from the U.S. Trade Representative to Congress contains some impressive information about AGOA's impact. Since it was enacted in 2000, trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa has increased 143 percent, and AGOA has played an important role in this increase. In 2006, over 98 percent of U.S. imports from AGOA-eligible countries entered the United States duty-free. U.S. imports from AGOA countries totaled \$44.2 billion in 2006, which was an increase of 16 percent over the previous year.

It is disappointing, however, that most of this increase in 2006 was due to oil, and non-

oil trade increased by only 7 percent after having declined a precipitous 16 percent in 2005. Non-oil AGOA trade constituted only \$3.2 billion of the total. These latter statistics indicate a need for greater attention to the non-oil potential on the continent.

The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations that I chaired held a hearing on a five-year assessment of the act in October 2005, which included two witnesses who we heard from again today: Ms. Florizelle Liser and Mr. Steve Hayes. One of the issues that I raised at the prior hearing was the protection of labor and other human rights in AGOA-eligible countries. Ms. Liser testified at the time that AGOA was having a positive impact on worker and human rights, and she provided examples of reforms that had been undertaken by beneficiary countries which included the prevention of child trafficking and addressed the worst forms of child labor.

It is important that this issue be examined, particularly in light of the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report that was released by the State Department last month. It contains a "Tier 2 Watch List" of countries that have a serious trafficking problem and that do not fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking. These countries will be the subject of particular scrutiny by the State Department's Trafficking Office during the coming year to ascertain whether they are making sufficient efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

It is disturbing that eight countries on the Tier 2 Watch List are AGOA beneficiaries, and that each of these countries are cited in the TIP report for child and/or forced labor concerns. Sexual exploitation, particularly of children, as cited in some of these reports would also be relevant in the AGOA context as gross violations of international human rights standards. In addition to the other human rights assessments that are legislatively mandated as part of the AGOA eligibility process, one would expect the tier placement for trafficking in persons to be a critical consideration. I would strongly encourage the U.S. Trade Representative to collaborate with the State Department Trafficking in Persons office on this issue.

While questions may be raised concerning the relation between AGOA and improvement in human rights, it does seem that the act together with the Millennium Challenge Account is providing an impetus for other advances. The World Bank is reporting that corruption in Africa is declining, stating that even some of the poorest countries have made "significant progress" in improving governance and fighting corruption over the past decade. This trend is certainly attributable to a significant extent to the eligibility requirements for both of these U.S. initiatives.

AGOA and the MCA are also addressing infrastructure and technical capacity that are essential for long-term development, but which are arguably not receiving sufficient emphasis from other assistance sources. As I indicated earlier and in the subcommittee's recent hearing on the MCA, Congress needs to look at ways to improve and strengthen these benefits in both pieces of legislation.

And finally, one should not minimize the good will and positive bilateral relationships in Africa that are being reinforced through AGOA and the MCA, together with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This latter

consideration, though intangible, is critical if the United States is to maintain and strengthen its presence in this region of the world that is becoming increasingly important for our own national security and global peace and prosperity.

CONGRATULATING PAULINE  
SHERRER AS THE NEW PRESIDENT  
OF THE TENNESSEE  
PRESS ASSOCIATION

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to congratulate Pauline Sherrer of Crossville, Tennessee, on her succession as President of the Tennessee Press Association. Pauline will join a long line of talented and dedicated journalism professionals in taking the helm of the TPA.

Pauline's family has long been an integral part of the Tennessee media. In 1981, the Sherrer family purchased the Crossville Chronicle, the hometown paper of Cumberland County. Pauline maintained her role as publisher of the Chronicle through two sales of the paper, providing the people of Cumberland County with fair and accurate reporting on the issues that affect them most. Loved by the Chronicle staff and lauded by her peers, Sherrer's leadership has set a standard for meeting the needs of readers.

With over 36 years of experience with the press and now as the first woman to hold a position on all three of Tennessee's press association boards, Pauline is a model for young women and anyone interested in a career in journalism. A mother and a grandmother, business leader and volunteer, Pauline serves her work, family and community with her strong voice and will.

It is my privilege to congratulate and honor Pauline Sherrer for her work, service and commitment, and to welcome her as the new President of our State's Press Association.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST  
DAVID WILKEY, JR., OF  
ELKHART, INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of U.S. Army Specialist David Wilkey, Jr., of Elkhart, Indiana, who died on June 18, 2007 while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. Just two weeks shy of his 23rd birthday, David lived a life worthy of admiration and respect, a life that we mourn today as cut tragically short.

Growing up in the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, David loved the outdoors. As his step-mother Margaret put it, "His passion was nature. If he had to pick where he was going to live, he would've picked a cabin in the middle of the woods with a pond nearby." The pond, of course, was for fishing, for David loved to both hunt and fish. His uncle, Wayne McDonald, frequently went hunting

with David, and considering his future absence on these trips Wayne could only say "It's going to be real hard this fall."

Those trips with his uncle combined two of David's most cherished loves. For as much as David loved the woods, he loved his family more. From his niece Victoria, whose eyes got big and thought "Yay!" whenever he arrived, to his Aunt Diane, who will miss his smile and wink most of all, family was the heart of David's life. He loved his family dearly. According to his wife, Melinda, "He wanted a big family and he was a very close family man."

In marrying Melinda in December of 2005, his dream of a big family found a great partner. He loved Melinda deeply, and that love showed immediately. It showed in the way he treated his stepson Christian as his own. It showed in the birth of his son Blayke. It shows in their third child that Melinda is pregnant with right now.

David was truly a remarkable man, a remarkable American. In his love of nature and family, he displayed this. He also displayed it in his sense of duty. Having been laid off just as he married Melinda, he could have simply collected unemployment and looked for other work. But his sense of duty to provide for his family as well as his plans to attend college and build a more secure future led David to choose service in the Army. Where so many are content to let others provide for them, this was not enough for David. His sense of duty, his ready courage, his sense of duty to his family—these qualities are the simple and small touches of everyday nobility that make America great, and made David Wilkey, Jr. great.

David was an avid fisherman and hunter, a devoted father and husband, and a magnetic and fun person who made a lasting impression on those around him. His father, David Wilkey, Sr., stated "He had a big heart, and he's a son that any father could be proud of." Today I honor David Wilkey, Jr. as a son who not only his father is proud of, but our entire Nation is proud of. As I register a Nation's pride, it is my regretful duty to also note our grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends. We join with his wife Melinda, his father David, and his mother Cindy to mourn his loss. While we struggle to come to terms with the sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in his example and joy in the memory of his life. May God Bless David and all those he loved.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
BARBARA JEAN CAMPBELL

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise with the support of my colleague, Hon. ZOE LOFGREN, to honor the life of Barbara Jean Campbell, who recently passed away. Barbara dedicated her life to public service and committed herself to expanding educational resources for the community around her. Her persistent efforts to improve the conditions of public libraries as well as the retirement benefits of former public employees have greatly benefited and enriched our community.

Barbara Jean Campbell was born on March 3, 1929 in Oakland, California. She remained

in the city of Berkeley for her education, attending local primary and secondary schools, and then obtaining her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in economics and library science respectively from the University of California, Berkeley.

Barbara began her career in library management at the Berkeley Public Library. Subsequently, she managed a library for the United States Air Force in England for three years. After returning to the Berkeley Library, she was recruited by the Santa Clara County Library system, where she served for the remainder of her career.

During her tenure at Santa Clara County, Barbara was among the first women to shatter the glass ceiling when she was appointed county librarian in 1973. She oversaw the opening of libraries in Morgan Hill, Campbell, Gilroy, Woodland, Saratoga, Alum Rock, and Milpitas. Furthermore, when Proposition 13 reduced library funds, Barbara played a vital role in keeping the libraries operating smoothly. By the time of her retirement in December 1984, she had left a legacy of eloquence and distinction in every task she undertook.

While others may have viewed their retirement as an end to community service, Barbara only gave more of her time and energy to serve the public. She joined the California State Library Foundation's Board of Directors in 1992 and served as secretary of the Board. Although the board meetings were held in Sacramento, Barbara faithfully attended despite the long commute from the Santa Clara Valley. Her understanding of the inner workings of a library and her insight as a former professional library administrator provided skillful guidance for the organization while her enthusiastic personality brightened every meeting.

In addition, Barbara devoted numerous hours to the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) of California in both the state and local chapters. In the Local Chapter 31, she served as president for two terms. At the state level, she served as secretary-treasurer from 1990 to 1996. In 1996, she was appointed as President of the State Association, where she oversaw approximately 35,000 members and promoted the mission of RPEA: to preserve, protect, and enhance the retirement benefits of former public employees. After her service as president, she continued to aid the association as Immediate Past President and a member of the RPEA Volunteer Committee.

Besides her extensive work in the California State Library Foundation and RPEA, Barbara was also a 50-year member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) where she was an original member of the branch's evening bridge group. As education was a particular interest of hers, Barbara participated in the scholarship committee of various organizations, including Friends of the Campbell Library, California Association of Librarians and Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC), and the Soroptimist Club. In her free time, Barbara enjoyed playing blackjack in Reno and bridge with AAUW. She was an avid San Francisco giants fan, loved to delve into mystery novels, and often shopped for kitchen appliances.

Barbara Jean Campbell passed away on April 11, 2007 at the age of 78. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, including the Dean family, the Holt family, and her three