

joined the New York City Police Department just over a year and a half ago.

Much has been said about this brave young man. His friends and family have told us what an amazing person he was and how much he meant to them. But it is the words of his mother that speak volumes about Officer Timoshenko. So tonight, I wish to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD what Tatyana Timoshenko said about a proud American . . . a hero police officer . . . her beloved son.

Speaking of their decision to immigrate to the United States: "I felt my child would have better opportunities here and a safer life. We were looking for a better life for our son . . . We wouldn't move just for us. We didn't speak English. We came here with nothing but six bags—two each . . . Do I regret it? A little, but at the same time, would he be the same person he is today if we didn't leave? I don't know . . . I know he was happy here."

Of the kind of person that her son was during his short life: "He never walked the stairs, he just flew up, skipping a step . . . And this flying, his steps, I can't forget them, I still hear them. I still can't believe it . . . He was truly unique. I want him to be remembered as a jolly, funny, kind boy. He was a leader and a hero."

Remembering the day her son became a member of the New York City Police Department: "We ordered sushi. It was a real holiday for him . . . He was really proud. I wanted him to be happy in life. He went to the academy, and I didn't want him to, but it made him happy."

And finally on the passing of her son: "I'm happy that we had such a miraculous child. That he died, it struck me in the heart, but there is nothing we can do now."

For Russel Timoshenko, his life was lost much too early. I offer my condolences to the Timoshenko family. My words cannot possibly ease your suffering or bring light to these dark days, but I want you to know that we grieve with your family . . . say a prayer for healing . . . honor Russel and his service to New York . . . and thank you for raising a young man of immense character and integrity.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2643, the Fiscal Year 2008 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. For the first time in years, the House is investing the resources needed to improve air and water quality, protect our pristine natural landscapes and historic structures, manage wildfires appropriately, and increase services for visitors to national parks, refuges and forests.

H.R. 2643 provides \$2.5 billion for our National Parks—\$223 million above 2007 levels and \$148 million above the President's request. This impressive commitment reverses years of chronic underfunding that has significantly weakened the system and represents a major step toward upgrading our parks in time

for the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016. The bill also renews America's support for the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities by including \$160 million for each program in Fiscal Year 2008. Significant increases over current funding levels will help arts and humanities programming across the country recover from a decade of deep cuts.

In addition, I am very pleased the bill includes funding for critically important U.S. Forest Service International Programs. The U.S. Forest Service International Programs promote sustainable forest management in countries around the world and return important technologies and innovations to the United States. H.R. 2643 includes \$8 million to support Forest Service efforts abroad—a much-needed \$1.1 million increase over the current level of funding.

The hard work of Forest Service professionals abroad is not a luxury; it is essential to the mission of the Forest Service. These International Programs support vital national priorities that matter to our constituents, including federal efforts to combat global climate change; strengthen the U.S. timber industry and fight illegal logging; protect North American migratory bird habitat; stop invasive species before they enter the U.S.; and improve America's global image by working in close partnership with Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Indonesia, Mexico, Liberia and many other key U.S. partners.

America's forests are part of a global forest ecosystem. Protecting and sustaining a healthy forest system in the U.S. requires the Forest Service to work with scientists and land managers in countries around the world. Consider the fight against invasive species. One invasive species alone—the Asian Longhorn Beetle—threatens to inflict losses up to \$138 billion on the U.S. economy. By investing in efforts to identify and suppress invasive species abroad, we can save the hundreds of billions of dollars needed to deal with a widespread infestation in America. In addition to saving taxpayers money, Forest Service International programs leverage private funds from groups including Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy.

Madam Speaker, this bill represents the values and priorities of the American people, from honoring our obligations to Native American communities to making critical investments in drinking water infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Fiscal Year 2008 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL M. WELLS, SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Paul M. Wells, Sr. for a life dedicated to his family, country, faith, and fellow brothers and sisters. Paul passed away July 13, but the mark he left on the Cleveland community will endure.

Paul has always demonstrated a commitment to serving others. After completing his service to our country in the United States

Army, Paul returned to Cleveland and started his career in public service, working for the City of Cleveland in the Division of Streets. As his career progressed, Paul sought more opportunities to serve. He became a union steward in an effort to improve working conditions and protect his fellow brothers and sisters. Paul eventually was elected Local 1099 President in 1971, a post he held for over 25 years. Over the course of his career, Paul spearheaded numerous efforts that led to historic gains for union workers.

Paul's faith guided him throughout his life. Paul is reunited in faith with his high school sweetheart, Nita Ruth Murray, to whom he was married for over 50 years. He is survived by his four children Pauletta; Constance; Paul, Jr.; and Eric, as well as seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Paul M. Wells, Sr., for a life spent in service to his community. Paul seized every opportunity to improve the lives of others. May we all follow his example.

COMMENDING MR. PINKY KRAVITZ ON 50 YEARS OF RADIO BROADCASTS AND HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Pinky Kravitz on his long and distinguished service to his community, and congratulate him on 50 years as an on-air radio talk show host in Atlantic City.

Starting his career on WLDB 1490AM and airing weekdays during the mid-afternoon, his first show was called "Pinky's Pool Party." Three years later, Pinky would move to his current home on WOND 1400AM, where for the last 47 years he has hosted his talk show at various times and locations across Atlantic County. For the past 28 years, he has broadcast live from Atlantic City's famed casinos including the Hilton, which is the current home of "Pinky's Corner."

A respected radio personality and dedicated community servant, Pinky has interviewed all of New Jersey's governors since 1974, all of the state's sitting U.S. Senators for the past 35 years, and myself on countless occasions—always with class and character. Without question, Pinky is an institution in southern New Jersey. On behalf of the House of Representatives and the residents of New Jersey, I would like to personally congratulate Mr. Pinky Kravitz who has entertained and informed his faithful listeners for five decades.

DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as many of our colleagues in this House know, India prides itself on being the world's most populous democracy. Although relations between India and the United States have been rocky in the past, since 2004 Washington and New Delhi have been pursuing a