

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LEON BRACHMAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Mr. Leon Brachman with Baylor All Saints Medical Center Board of Trustees. Dr. Brachman was recently selected to receive the Texas Healthcare Trustees' 2007 Founders' Award.

For over a half of a decade, Mr. Brachman has shown unwavering commitment to leadership and service to the health care industry in the City of Fort Worth. In 1958, he oversaw the construction of the initial building for All Saints Hospital, an Episcopal Hospital, that later became affiliated with the Baylor Healthcare system. Mr. Brachman has served as a trustee for over 50 years as the hospital has expanded throughout the North Texas community. Through his efforts, in an ever-changing and challenging health care arena, Fort Worth now stands as an excellent model for other communities hoping for a strong health care system.

The Texas Healthcare Trustees Founders' Award is the highest honor for a Texas hospital and health system trustee. It is a statewide award, given to only one person in the state, per year. Mr. Brachman was selected as the distinguished trustee in honor of his record of leadership in health care governance. The Founders' Award remains a symbol of dedication and excellence in service in the health care field.

It is with great honor and pride that I recognize Mr. Leon Brachman today, and I encourage him to continue to serve as an example to us all in putting our community and the needs of others ahead of ourselves. His vision will ensure a healthier future for Texans.

HONORING LEN STEWART

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the exemplary career of a constituent of mine, Mr. Len Stewart.

Having faithfully served Barnstable County, Massachusetts, for the past 8 years as the director of human services, Len is leaving us to take a similar position in Mesa County, Colorado. During his tenure on Cape Cod, he has played a pivotal role in the growth and success of the county's Human Services Department. Len's efforts have brought the region's health and human service providers together, attracting new Federal dollars to deliver vital services to our people.

Len first came to the cape in 1981, serving as the director of the Provincetown AIDS Sup-

port Group. Following his success in Provincetown, Len became the director of the county's Human Services Department. His leadership over the past 8 years has led to the establishment of a regional alliance of agencies committed to increasing access to health care for the uninsured and underserved residents of our community. This collaboration has attracted millions of dollars to the region for critical services benefiting thousands of cape and island residents, in areas such as dental and medical care, mental health, and substance abuse needs.

His talents and expertise have also helped those who have become marginalized because of their age, ethnicity, gender, race and sexual orientation. Of all of his endeavors, one of the most note-worthy is the creation of the first human rights commission in Barnstable County, behind which he was the driving force.

I have long admired Len's dedication to the cape and his passion for public service. As he leaves us, I have no doubt that he will bring this same sense of commitment to his new responsibilities in Colorado.

As we pause and reflect on the significance of his achievements, he can take with him the heartfelt gratitude of the people of the cape and the islands for all that he has done to improve the lives of those around him. On behalf of a grateful constituency, I want to say thank you and wish you the very best.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in support of a resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. FOSSELLA, for taking the lead in sponsoring this Resolution.

It is a tradition of this legislative body to honor and pay tribute to American institutions whose historic significance has contributed to the culture and traditions of our citizens. The Archdiocese of New York, with its long history of faith and service, is one such institution.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York presently covers New York City and other areas of southern New York State. When it was established on April 8, 1808, the Diocese of New York was under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and covered all of New York State and certain parts of New Jersey. The Diocese was elevated to an Archdiocese in 1850. Twelve dioceses now occupy the area that was once covered by one.

Under Archbishop Cardinal Edward M. Egan, the Archdiocese of New York now

serves 2.5 million New York Roman Catholics and consists of 42 parishes, 278 elementary schools, and 3,729 charitable ministries.

The Archdiocese of New York is significant for many reasons. Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of today's Catholic education parochial school and the first American-born saint, was a member of the Archdiocese. In fact, her name appears on the front doors of the well-known St. Patrick's Cathedral—the largest decorated gothic-style Catholic cathedral in the United States, which is located in my district. The New York Archdiocese has also had the honor of hosting three papal visits: Pope Paul VI in 1965 and Pope John Paul II in 1979 and 1995.

Throughout its rich history and up to the present day, the Archdiocese of New York has been generously sustained by its faithful parishioners, and has long supported the community through its ministries and countless good deeds. I can think of no better time to celebrate the Archdiocese than in this, its bicentennial year.

COMMENDING DAVID RAY RITCHESON AND RECOGNIZING HIS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution honoring the life and courage of the late David Ray Ritcheson.

David was a popular, friendly and cheerful student at Klein Collins High School in the Houston suburb of Spring, Texas. After a dispute at a party in Spring on April 23, 2006, two avowed white supremacists viciously attacked David because he was Mexican-American. David's attackers attempted to burn a swastika into his chest, poured bleach on his face and body, and used a jagged pipe to brutally assault him. One of his attackers was a skinhead with Nazi tattoos, and both of his attackers yelled "White Power!" during their assault on David.

After this attack, David was left for dead, but, after being sent to the hospital the next morning, he fought bravely on. After 3½ months in an intensive care hospital bed, David was able to leave the hospital and attempt to return to a life of normalcy. David courageously decided to use his tragedy to create something positive and became an outspoken advocate of federal hate crimes legislation that would help ensure that local police departments would be able to prosecute cases like his as hate crimes in the future.

This past April, David testified before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary in favor of the

• 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.

Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. His passionate, moving and eloquent testimony helped spur this House to act on that important legislation, which passed this House in May.

Unfortunately, David passed away on July 1, after fighting to overcome the physical and mental wounds left by his attackers for over a year. In this difficult time for David's family and friends, it is important to remember David's admirable courage, warmth and strength.

I would like to give my condolences to all of David Ray Ritcheson's family, friends and loved ones. I also would like to recognize David's life and everything that he accomplished. I commend my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for introducing this resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOI
NGUYEN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. I rise today in tribute to Loi Nguyen, respected leader of the Syracuse Vietnamese Community. Sadly, Mr. Nguyen passed away on July 8th, 2007, after a long battle with liver complications.

Mr. Nguyen was a true patriot and an exemplary citizen. He fought valiantly alongside U.S. troops in Vietnam as a battalion commander in the South Vietnamese Army, suffering 10 years in a Communist re-education camp for aiding Americans. Along with other South Vietnamese soldiers who helped the U.S., Mr. Nguyen was allowed to immigrate into the United States, and moved to the Syracuse area in 1990. He began to assist refugees from Vietnam and other Southeast Asian nations in learning to drive, find jobs, learn English, and register to vote. He led the Vietnamese Community of Syracuse and the Vietnamese Veterans, and worked tirelessly to build a sense of community and improve conditions in Syracuse's North Side, where many Vietnamese immigrants live. One of his crowning achievements, Mr. Nguyen was instrumental in the development of the Franciscan Vietnamese Freedom Garden, which will serve as a green space for residents of the North Side, and also as a symbol of community.

Mr. Nguyen's leadership, his patriotism, and his concern for others have benefited his community greatly. He fostered a better understanding and sense of community among many different cultures, and reminded us all of the significance of what many of us take for granted—freedom. Loi Nguyen will be missed, but will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLYDE AND
LINDA ROGERS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to an occasion very dear to me. On July 26, 2007, my mother and

father will mark their 50th wedding anniversary.

Linda Lou Perryman and Clyde Gilbert Rogers were wed by a Justice of the Peace on July 26, 1957, in Crown Point, Indiana. When they moved to Alabama my father worked as a firefighter at the Anniston Army Depot for 25 years and my mother took a job as an inspector at Classie Ribbon Company, where she worked for more than 30 years.

I would like to wish my parents a happy anniversary and thank them for all that they have done for me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 703 on H.R. 3074, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "aye" when I should have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, On rollcall No. 691, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 692, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 693, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 694, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 695, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 696, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 697, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 698, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 699, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 700, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 701, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 702, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 703, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 704, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 705, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 706, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 707, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 708, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall

No. 709, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 710, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 711 I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 712, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 713 I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 714, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 715, I was taking a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 23, and Tuesday, July 24, I was unavoidably detained due to family medical matters in California and was not present for a number of rollcall votes on those days.

Had I been present I would have voted: "Yea" on rollcall 687, H.R. 404, the Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act.

"Yea" on rollcall 688, H. Res. 553, Mourning the passing of former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson.

"Yea" on rollcall 689, H. Res. 519, Honoring the life and accomplishments of renowned artist Tom Lea on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

"Yea" on rollcall 690, a Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 558.

"Nay" on rollcall 691, an amendment offered by Representative MICA to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 692, an amendment offered by Representative BACHMANN to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 693, an amendment offered by Representative FLAKE to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 694, an amendment offered by Representative FLAKE to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 695, an amendment offered by Representative CHABOT to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 696, an amendment offered by Representative WESTMORELAND to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 697, an amendment offered by Representative SESSIONS to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 698, an amendment offered by Representative FLAKE to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 699, an amendment offered by Representative FLAKE to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 700, an amendment offered by Representative FLAKE to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 701, an amendment offered by Representative FLAKE to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 702, an amendment offered by Representative FLAKE to H.R. 3074.

"Yea" on rollcall 703, an amendment offered by Representative HASTINGS (Florida) to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 704, an amendment offered by Representative FRELINGHUYSEN to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 705, an amendment offered by Representative HENSARLING to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 706, an amendment offered by Representative HENSARLING to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 707, an amendment offered by Representative HUNTER to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 708, an amendment offered by Representative JORDAN to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 709, an amendment offered by Representative PRICE (Georgia) to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 710, an amendment offered by Representative MUSGRAVE to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 711, an amendment offered by Representative PRICE (Georgia) to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 712, an amendment offered by Representative KING (Iowa) to H.R. 3074.

"Yea" on rollcall 713, an amendment offered by Representative FRANK to H.R. 3074.

"Nay" on rollcall 714, a Motion to Recommit H.R. 3074.

"Yea" on rollcall 715, H.R. 3074, the Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation/HUD Appropriations Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

July 24, 2007

Roll call vote 691, on agreeing to the Mica (FL) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 692, on agreeing to the Bachmann (MN) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 693, on agreeing to the Flake (AZ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 694, on agreeing to the Flake (AZ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 695, on agreeing to the Chabot (OH) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 696, on agreeing to the Westmoreland (GA) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 697, on agreeing to the Sessions (TX) amendment—H.R. 3074, the De-

partments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 698, on agreeing to the Flake (AZ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 699, on agreeing to the Flake (AZ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 700, on agreeing to the Flake (AZ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 701, on agreeing to the Flake (AZ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 702, on agreeing to the Flake (AZ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted aye.

Roll call vote 703, on agreeing to the Hastings (FL) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted nay.

Roll call vote 704, on agreeing to the Frelinghuysen (NJ) amendment—H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations for FY 2008—I would have voted nay.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAND UP EFFORTS OF STAND DOWN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Ventura County Stand Down, which this weekend will mark 15 years of helping homeless veterans combat life on the streets.

During the three-day, two-night Stand Down, veterans will live on the campus of the California Army National Guard Armory in military-style tents erected by the Seabees. They will have access to shower facilities, toiletries, new and used clean clothing, and hot meals each day.

Working in conjunction with dozens of public and private agencies, Stand Down 2007 will provide homeless veterans with a myriad of services such as medical treatment, legal services, prescription lenses, employment counseling and referrals, VA benefits, drug and alcohol counseling, general relief information, transitional housing information, along with a range of other government and social services.

It's a monumental undertaking. Ventura County Stand Down would not be a success—or have even been launched—without the skill and perseverance of Claire Hope, the founder and executive committee chairperson of Ventura County Stand Down. The daughter of a World War II veteran and mother of a veteran of Desert Storm, Claire Hope has a soft heart for veterans and a strong will to help those in need.

She is not alone. About 300 volunteers help each year with the efforts. Another nearly 300 companies, corporations, and non-profit organizations are on board. About 20 service providers take part and 20 committees oversee all aspects of the event, from planning, to execution, to cleanup, to follow-up.

Many of the volunteers have been with Claire since the beginning. While I can't name them all, I would be remiss without noting several key people whose efforts have meant so much to our veterans. They include:

Duane Dammeyer, Public Defender; J. Roger Myers, Legal Counsel; Bob Reeves, Grounds; Hal Nachenberg, VA Benefits and Services; Joseph Narkevitz and Robert Reed, PTSD & Intervention Counseling; Herb Williams, On-Site Activities; Bob Adams, Job Placement; Betty Zamos, Homeless Program VA Administration; Judge John Dobroth, Superior Court; Dr. Cal Farmer, Entertainment/Ambiance; Madeline Lee, Toiletries; Marie Williams, Transportation; Gene Ogden, Adopt-A-Veteran Program; and, Mary Ann Foushee, Social Security Administration.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing the importance of Ventura County Stand Down and in thanking Claire Hope and her myriad of volunteers for their selfless efforts in helping those who served our country and who fell on hard times to have a fighting chance to resume a life of stability and peace. It's a yeoman's effort, and one worth undertaking.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3074) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3074, the FY2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act.

This legislation includes funding for many valuable programs including \$1.4 billion for Amtrak, which serves as a critical transportation link not only for my constituents, but for people across the country.

I especially want to thank Chairman OLVER for the funding in the bill for the Second Avenue Subway. The President's budget request included funding for the Second Avenue Subway, which will be vital to commuters throughout the region and for thousands of tourists

who visit from around the country. The Second Avenue Subway will ease the incredibly overcrowded Lexington Avenue subway line, which is one of the busiest in the Nation. On day one, the Second Avenue Subway will carry nearly 200,000 riders, reducing crowding on the Lex line by 13 percent. I am also pleased that the bill includes funding for the East Side Connector, which when completed will bring approximately 160,000 new passengers, including 5,000 residents of western Queens, into Grand Central Station.

Finally, I support the provisions in the bill to increase funding for Section 8 housing vouchers, the HOPE VI program, and the Community Development Block Grant, and to restore the President's proposed cuts to housing for the disabled and the elderly. This legislation addresses the needs of our constituents, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORNERSTONE LAYING OF THE PILGRIM MONUMENT IN PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to commemorate an important historical milestone in America's history, the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone laying of the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, MA.

The Pilgrims arrived on our shores with their many hopes and dreams; they worked hard and suffered greatly in order to fulfill them. Now, people around the country, from schoolchildren studying them as part of their American history curriculum to families gathering together on the fourth Thursday of every November in the spirit of thankfulness, the story of the Pilgrims and America's First Thanksgiving is enshrined in our collective memory. On Monday, August 20, 2007, a variety of friends and admirers will gather at the Pilgrim Monument to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Monument's cornerstone in 1907.

The 252-foot-tall Pilgrim Memorial Monument was constructed between 1907 and 1910 to commemorate the first landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor in 1620. It was built by the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, which was established by a special act of the Massachusetts legislature on February 29, 1892, to raise funds to build the Monument. The Association raised \$92,000 in federal, state and private funds, while the land was donated by the town of Provincetown. The cornerstone of the Monument was laid on August 20, 1907 at a ceremony attended by President Theodore Roosevelt, and the completed Monument was dedicated in 1910 at a ceremony attended by President William Howard Taft.

Since its completion in 1910, the Monument has become a symbol of the role Provincetown played in the early history of our country. In the century since its construction, the Monument has attracted millions of visitors from across the United States and around the

world. The Provincetown Museum has excelled in its mission of detailing not only the events surrounding the Pilgrims' first landfall but also the place Provincetown occupies in New England's cultural and maritime history.

On August 20, 2007, a host of well wishers will join the entire Provincetown community in a parade and gathering at the Monument to commemorate its place in Massachusetts' and America's history. And it is with equal pleasure that I enter this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that this milestone is officially recognized and recorded in the official history of the United States of America.

THE MERCED COUNTY VFW HONOR GUARD

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure and gratitude that I rise today to recognize the Merced County VFW Honor Guard for their many years of selfless service on behalf of their fellow veterans of the United States of America. I am particularly honored to recognize this team of individuals as they served as Honor Guard at the burial service of my own father, Manuel Cardoza, who served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II.

For many years, members of the Winton VFW Post #7792, the Atwater VFW Post #9946, and the Merced VFW Post #4327 worked together to help conduct proper burial services for our local veterans. These individuals have worked long hours and gruesome schedules in order to serve their fellow veterans. Within the last few years, they have averaged 157 burial services, dedicated 4511 man hours, and traveled more than 4800 miles each year.

I would like to take a moment to recite the names of the veterans who have dedicated their time, energy and resources to providing their fellow veterans with honorable burial services as members of the Honor Burial Team. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring those members of the Honor Guard who have gone before us: Louis Gonzales #9946, Paul Gunderson #7792, Ernie Dominquez #4327, Wyn Aguirre #9946, David Barrone #9946, John Aue #9946, Mel Hode #9946, Vern Kolander #7792, Bill and Evelyn Petrie #7792, Bill Butler #9946, Charles Hickman #9946, Frank and Mary Gaffney #9946, and Bryce Tillman #9946. And it is with great sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the current members of the Merced County Honor Guard: Commander Richard Clerkin #7792, Chaplain Ken Wenrich #7792, Honorary Chaplain Father Tom Timmings, Rifle Team Captain George Stroud #7792, Bugler Bill Dacus #4327, Quarter Master Don Dean #9946, Ray Baker #7792, Dick Darby #7792, Ernie Connor #7792, Judge Brown #7792, Gerald Dunker #7792, Byron McNamara #9946, Ken Henn #9946, John Douglas #9946, Bill Oliver #9946, Tony Castro #9946, David Loeser #9946, James Tyson #9946, Willie Kimoto #7792, and Ishmael Hernandez #9946.

Throughout our history, brave men and women have risked their lives to preserve

freedom for future generations. It is a tradition unlike any other. Each member of the United States Armed Forces is an inspiration to the American people in their patriotism, skill, and selfless dedication to the ideals that make this Nation great. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Merced County VFW Honor Guard for their service and for their selfless commitment to honoring their fellow veterans with the most appropriate and necessary military burial. I wholeheartedly extend my sincerest appreciation to each individual of this outstanding team. Thank you for serving our country with bravery and honor, and thank you for continuing to serve your fellow veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe the greatness of our country will not be measured by the number of tractors it produces. But rather, I believe the greatness of our country will be measured by the number of persons it feeds. I believe the greatness of our country will not be measured by the number of skyscrapers it builds. But rather, I believe the greatness of our country will be measured by the number of persons it shelters.

Today, more than three quarters of a million people are homeless on any given night. There are as many as 189,000 homeless persons with disabilities. More than 98,452 families are homeless. If we are to end homelessness, rather than just reduce it, we must provide our Nation with right tools to fight homelessness. If we are to end homelessness within 10 years, rather than just reduce it, we must ensure that we support the programs that work well. That rests in our ability to fully fund them so that they achieve their true potential.

That is why I am a proud co-sponsor of H. Res. 561, which recognizes the 20th anniversary of the passage of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The McKinney-Vento programs have successfully provided housing (e.g., shelter, transitional housing) and supportive services to tens of thousands of men, women and children experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is an important asset in our battle against homelessness. I commend my colleague, Mr. SHAYS, for introducing this important resolution.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY, LADY BIRD JOHNSON

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Nation lost a beloved friend and one of its most dedicated environmentalists on Wednesday when Lady Bird Johnson passed away at the age of 94.

Much has been written about how the classy woman from Austin was a calming influence on our 37th President, Lyndon B. Johnson. When President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, Lady Bird stepped in and provided comfort to the Kennedy family and a grieving Nation. When civil rights legislation looked to be stalled in the Congress in 1964, the devoted mother of two took to the road on her own whistle-stop tour across the country, defending the administration's policies and goals.

However, her most lasting legacy can be seen anytime you see the flowers bloom in the Capital or the colorful landscapes as you travel the Nation's roads. In addition to leading clean-up efforts of parks and natural habitats in and around the DC area, her advocacy helped push through the \$320 million Highway Beautification Act in 1965. The Federal legislation provided money and other incentives to reduce the number of billboards and other eyesores along Federal highways and expanded local programs to plant wildflowers and other native plants.

Active well into her 90s, Lady Bird Johnson was a role model for future generations. She broke the mold of what a First Lady could do, both during and after the White House. Her achievements and efforts with the National Wildlife Research Center that she helped establish in 1982 expanded the Nation's interest in the environment, providing a foundation for today's current green movement.

Her activism and graceful presence will be missed. Yet, her smile and charm will always be remembered any time anyone looks at the beautiful landscapes and wildflowers that she championed all across this great land.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 712, which would have prohibited funds in the fiscal year 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act from being used to implement provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW JAMES BRAMMEIER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew James Brammeier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1360, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned

numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew James Brammeier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, an important program that keeps alive the memory of the Underground Railroad and the spirit of freedom, justice and equality encompassed therein.

The Underground Railroad stood as a beacon of hope during a time of slavery and oppression for millions of African-Americans. Tens of thousands of enslaved individuals used the network of clandestine routes, safe houses, meeting points and secret codes known as the Underground Railroad to escape to freedom during the first half of the 19th century.

In 1998, Congress established the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. This network of 300 affiliate sites across the United States has done an excellent job over the last decade in increasing public awareness of the Underground Railroad, the amazing individuals who made it possible, and its numerous accomplishments. However, this tremendous program has faced persistent underfunding since its inception and is projected to face a budgetary shortfall of nearly 80 percent by 2011 unless its funding is increased.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act presents a sensible and important solution to this challenge. This bill will authorize \$2.5 million annually for the operation of the Network to Freedom program, an increase from the \$500,000 currently authorized. This modest increase will provide the program with sufficient funding to allow it to retain the staff and resources necessary to continue educating the American public about this shining example of truly American values.

Mr. Speaker, I believe strongly in the values embodied by the Underground Railroad and the people who made it a reality. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act, which I believe is a crucial step in keeping alive the memory of the Underground Railroad. I commend my friend and colleague, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, for introducing this important legislation.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY, LADY BIRD JOHNSON

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Mrs. Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson. Her humble and steadfast devotion to public service combined with her passionate concern for environmental issues made her an icon within the environmental movement. Modest and kind, dedicated and courageous, her contribution to American politics will not soon be forgotten.

As an advocate of natural habitat and wildlife protection, I greatly admired Lady Bird's commitment to preserving and beautifying America's lands. My father, Stewart Udall, was Secretary of the Interior under President Johnson, and he credits Lady Bird's several trips to the American West and the Rocky Mountains with igniting her love of the environment. Her campaigns to beautify our cities and highways, clean our lakes and rivers, and preserve our natural resources catalyzed many of the environmental campaigns politicians now pursue. Lady Bird transformed Washington D.C. while her husband was in office by planting thousands of tulips and daffodils in parks across the city and creating a national roadside planting program. For Lady Bird, wildflower beautification was not simply cosmetic; by expanding and bolstering diverse habitats, her projects inspired reverence for nature and the inherent splendor of our earth. She reminded us that to enjoy life, we must sometimes stop to smell the roses.

At age 70, she founded the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. She said it was her way of paying back rent for the space she occupied in the world. This center now leads the nation in wildflower research, education, and project development.

Environmental work, however, was only part of Lady Bird's public service campaign. As the first First Lady to have a press secretary and a chief of staff, she cultivated her own agenda. A staunch supporter of civil rights, Lady Bird's strength, intelligence, and good judgment served as a guide and comfort for President Johnson. She also pushed for federal legislation restricting billboards on federal highways and fought for the Head Start program. The projects she undertook always reflected her compassion, graciousness, and determination to make a difference.

Lady Bird's compassion not only infused her political career but also permeated her personal life. Mother of two beautiful daughters, Luci Baines and Lynda Bird, Lady Bird cared for her family with same exquisite grace she exhibited as First Lady. Luci and Lynda have inherited their mother's dedication to public service. They have supported a variety of organizations, including Reading Is Fundamental, the American Heart Association, and the Center for Battered Women. Lady Bird's family and those close to her admired and emulated her loving patience, tender poise, and unending strength.

An environmental pioneer, a behind the scenes supporter and advisor for her husband, a loving mother, and a gentle soul, Lady Bird

will be sincerely missed. Lady Bird was a friend of my father's, and our family will always celebrate the life of the extraordinary woman who gave so much of herself. In her various efforts to spread beauty and tranquility across the country, Lady Bird has left this world a better place for us all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL JUSTICE FOR OUR MILITARY ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Equal Justice for Our Military Act of 2007—a bill that will give our servicemembers equal access to the United States Supreme Court. We all know that when American men and women decide to serve their nation in the Armed Forces, they make many sacrifices—from lost time with their families to irreplaceable losses of lives and limbs. However, most Americans are not aware that active-duty servicemembers also sacrifice one of the fundamental legal rights that all civilian Americans enjoy.

Under current law, members of the military who are convicted of offenses under the military justice system do not have the legal right to appeal their cases to the U.S. Supreme Court. It is unjust to deny the members of our Armed Forces access to our system of justice as they fight for our freedom around the world. They deserve better.

As the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, a long-time advocate for servicemembers, and a representative of San Diego, one of the largest military communities in the nation, I feel an obligation to fight to ensure that the members of our military are treated fairly. Current law weights the playing field in favor of the government, granting the automatic right to Supreme Court review to the Department of Defense whenever a servicemember wins his or her case, but denying servicemembers that same right when the government wins a conviction against them in almost all situations. This is just unfair. In the 109th Congress, I introduced legislation to grant our men and women in uniform access to the Supreme Court in certain situations.

Today, I am re-introducing this legislation in expanded form, to allow service members in a broader set of circumstances the right to Supreme Court appeal. This approach has been endorsed by the American Bar Association, the Military Officers Association of America, and many other advocates. I believe strongly that it is fundamentally unjust to deny those who serve on behalf of our country in the military one of the basic rights afforded to all other Americans. I hope that you will stand with me in support of this legislation to attain equal treatment for those who fight for us.

INTRODUCTION OF CAPITAL GAINS AND ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, earlier today I introduced, along with my colleague CHRIS SHAYS, the Capital Gains and Estate Tax Relief Act, a bill to extend key tax cuts that are critical to middle class families in my district and across the country.

If enacted, the Capital Gains and Estate Tax Relief Act would preserve the lower tax on capital gains as well as the reduced estate tax which are both set to expire in 2011.

Several years ago, these tax cuts were championed by President Bush and a Republican Congress. Clearly the political winds have changed. But in the race to distance ourselves from the former congressional leadership, I implore my colleagues to give careful consideration to these tax cuts before dismissing them.

They are sensible. They help millions of middle class Americans. They encourage investment and make our tax code more fair and more predictable.

After careful consideration, I believe they should be made permanent and bipartisan.

They affect small businesses. They affect the stock holders. They affect anyone who owns a home.

While, a generation ago, these may have sounded like the lofty concerns of the wealthy elite, today, these are mainstream, middle-class experiences.

In 1983, less than 20 percent of Americans owned stock. Now, between IRAs, 401(k)s, and education savings accounts, more than half of Americans do.

And after a decade and a half of low interest rates, more than two-thirds of Americans are now homeowners. By 2011, the year that these tax cuts expire, economists predict that number will reach 70 percent.

When it comes time to sell your home or trade your stock, capital gains taxes prevent you from making optimal financial decisions. This is bad for sellers, bad for buyers, and bad for our economy.

Decisions like these should be based on personal and financial needs, such as paying for college or planning for retirement, not the needs of the IRS.

While it would be impractical for us to eliminate the tax on capital gains, I believe we can take steps to minimize its harmful effects. Most notably, we can make the temporary cut from 20 percent to 15 percent permanent.

The estate tax is equally troublesome. Before the temporary tax cuts went into effect, anyone with assets of more than \$675,000 at the time of his or her death was subject to the estate tax. In calculating this amount, the government didn't just count the amount of money in your bank account. It also counted the value of your home and the value of your investments. And if you owned a small business, the government counted the value of that business as well.

As home values began to rise and the number of small businesses continued to grow,

more and more middle-class tax payers began exceeding this exemption.

This was a particular problem in Arizona, where home prices have increased by more than 150 percent in the past decade. But there are many States where the growth of real estate has outpaced Arizona's.

In other words, if a taxpayer purchased a \$250,000 home in the 1990s and this home increased in value to \$625,000, the owner was only allowed \$50,000 in additional assets before the Federal Government started taking away 55 percent of everything else that person owned upon his or her death. If that taxpayer was self-employed, owned a small business, or had money saved in a retirement account, it is easy to see how quickly his or her estate could exceed \$675,000.

Home ownership and small businesses are things we want to promote. Over the past decade, small businesses have created more than 60 percent of new jobs in the United States. In Arizona, small businesses account for 97 percent of employer businesses.

But home ownership and small business development are precisely the things that are hurt by the estate tax. It makes it harder for family businesses to transfer their assets down from one generation to another. When combined with capital gains, it makes it harder for parents to realize the benefit of the recent housing boom and share that benefit with their children.

I believe we need an estate tax that takes inflation into account, so the value of your property today will be the same as what you would like to pass onto your children. H.R. 3170 would permanently reduce the estate tax by establishing a system for future increases in the estate tax exemption based on inflation.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the combined costs of making these tax cuts permanent to be \$332 billion over 10 years. To put this in perspective, we are currently spending \$124 billion a year on the war in Iraq. If we can find that much to help Iraqis with their economy, I believe we can find \$332 billion to help our own.

In March, I voted against the Budget Resolution, H. Con. Res. 99, in part, because it failed to extend cuts to the estate and capital gains taxes. At the time, I expressed frustration with both Democrats and Republicans for failing to work together to create a budget that incorporates good ideas from both sides of the aisle.

When I ran for Congress last year, the one thing I heard over and over again from voters was how sick and tired they were of partisan bickering in Washington that was getting nothing done.

I believe we can do better. So today I challenge my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to do the right thing. Consider this legislation, not through a caustic, partisan lens, but on its merits. The middle class wants Congress to make these key tax cuts permanent, and working together, I know we can make that happen.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 31

- 9:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the state of the securities markets. SD-538
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine nuclear energy and nonproliferation challenges, focusing on safeguarding the atom. SD-419
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ronald Spoehel, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, William G. Sutton, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Thomas J. Barrett, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and Paul R. Brubaker, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation. SR-253

- Finance
To continue hearings to examine carried interest (Part II). SD-215
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security status report, focusing on measuring progress and confronting new threats. SD-342
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the impact of the Leegin decision. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine death and serious injury relating to oxycontin and defective products. SD-226
- Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 9:30 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense education issues. SD-562

AUGUST 1

- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice. SR-253
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the underrepresentation of Americans at the United Nations and its organizations; focusing on ways to build a stronger American diplomatic presence. SD-342
- Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 1054 and H.R. 122, bills to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Inland Empire regional recycling project and in the Cucamonga

Valley Water District recycling project, S. 1472, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration, S. 1475 and H.R. 1526, bills to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program, H.R. 30, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, H.R. 609, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and H.R. 1175, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project. SD-366

Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Donald M. Kerr, of Virginia, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. SH-219

AUGUST 2

- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SR-253
- 2:30 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Security and International Trade and Finance Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine reforming key international financial institutions for the 21st century. SD-538
- Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219