

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JACK HOLEFELDER

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you to honor Jack Holefelder on his retirement from presidency of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, a post he has held for the past 26 years. Mr. Holefelder has overseen an over 500% increase in chamber membership such that the chamber is now the third largest chamber in Pennsylvania. Over this period, the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce has twice won the Chamber of the Year award.

Along with his decades of exemplary leadership over the chamber, Mr. Holefelder has been an active member of the community. He has headed or been a member of numerous committee organizations including Chairman of the Delaware County Fair; Chairman of the Chester Housing Authority Advisory Board; Chairman of Red Cross, Heart Fund, Cancer Society, and March of Dimes fund raising; President of the Delaware County Education Foundation; Board Member of the Delaware County Hero Scholarship Fund; Board Member of the Southeastern Delaware County United Way; Board Member of the Delaware County Crime Commission; a member of the Neumann College Board of Trustees; and a coach in the Aston and Middletown Little League and Girl's Soccer league. He has raised over five million dollars for local charities and special projects.

Most impressive of all Mr. Holefelder's many achievements is his commitment to the Rotaplast International program. Since 2002, Mr. Holefelder has participated in three trips to Peru and one trip to India in support of that exceptional program. Dedicated to providing free reconstructive cleft-palate operations and treatment for children in need worldwide, Mr. Holefelder and his colleagues have been ambassadors of goodwill to hundreds of families who will never forget the life-changing nature of their kindness.

Mr. Holefelder is a published author, a TV and radio personality, and an entrepreneur. He is a recipient of the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal for service in Vietnam, the Red Cross David Henderson Humanitarian Award, Glen Riddle Rotary Community Service Award, and March of Dimes Lifetime Achievement Award among numerous other awards and recognitions.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Jack Holefelder, a pillar of the community and a man who represents the very best of the United States of America at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, because I was attending to important constituent matters in my congressional district, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 865 and 866. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

SIKHS SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO REMOVE TURBANS AT AIRPORTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently a Sikh named Dr. Ranbir Singh Sandhu was stopped at the San Francisco airport as he tried to board a flight and forced by agents of the Transportation Security Administration to take off his turban. Dr. Sandhu, who is around 80, was on his way to a funeral in Vancouver. He refused to take off his turban and was barred from the flight, forcing him to make a 20-hour drive to get to the funeral.

This is unacceptable. I certainly understand and support wanding the turban for security reasons in this day and age, but forcing a Sikh to remove his turban is an insult to his religious identity. TSA does not make Jewish passengers take off their yarmulkes and that is right. They shouldn't. But they require Sikhs to take off their turbans. That is unfair, discriminatory, and wrong.

Airport security is important. We were just reminded of that again by the passing of another anniversary of the September 11 attacks. But we must not let that be used as an excuse to violate the religious liberties and the civil rights of anyone. We should stop asking Sikhs to remove their turbans.

The Council of Khalistan recently wrote to President Bush, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff, and the TSA Administrator, Kip Hawley, asking that this policy be changed.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007.

HON. MICHAEL CHERTOFF,
Secretary of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CHERTOFF: I am writing to you today about the Transportation Safety Administration's practice of making Sikhs remove their turbans in order to travel. Recently, Dr. Ranbir Singh Sandhu of California, a retired engineering professor who is around 80 years old, was stopped at San Francisco International Airport on his way to Vancouver for a funeral. He was ordered by TSA security workers to remove his turban. When he refused he was not allowed to board his flight and he wound up having to drive 20 hours to Vancouver to get to the funeral.

Asking a Sikh to remove his turban in public is worse than asking someone to remove

his pants in public. No one would even think of making such a request, yet the TSA thinks nothing of asking Sikhs to remove their turbans in public.

I salute TSA for not asking Jewish people to remove their yarmulkes in public. This is because they are religious symbols. Jewish people are required to wear them in public. By the same principle, Sikhs are required to wear their turbans. Wanding the turban should be enough and would be understandable in light of security concerns, but forcing a Sikh to remove his turban is unacceptable. It is a strike against his Sikh religion and his Sikh identity.

I respectfully but strongly urge you to take action to prevent what happened to Dr. Sandhu from happening to any other Sikh traveller. Please order the TSA workers to respect the religion and identity of Sikhs and not to force them to remove their turbans. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT L. WRIGHT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Robert L. Wright, as the Chattahoochee Council of the Boy Scouts of America's 2007 Distinguished Citizen Award recipient, which honors his outstanding service to the Columbus, Georgia community.

There is much to admire about a man like Dr. Wright. As one of the first African American men to attend the Ohio State University, Dr. Wright received a degree in optometry, and later began his optometry practice in Columbus. Then, in 1985, he founded Dimensions International, a defense logistics company, as a three person operation. Today, Dimensions has over 1,200 employees in more than 30 locations.

However, I believe Dr. Wright's sense of civic duty, which has been a running theme throughout his life, truly distinguishes him from his peers and makes him a man worthy of praise. He has fought for racial equality, serving as both a moderator and trail blazer in several organizations, including the Georgia Republican Party. He has served as a mentor to other minority small business owners and helped craft policy to aid their success, including serving as associate administrator for minority small business at the Small Business Administration under President Reagan. He also was on the planning committee to create the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Perhaps it is the many challenges Dr. Wright encountered as a young man, or perhaps it is his unwavering belief in human

• 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.

achievement that drives him. No matter the source of his inspiration, I know the numerous organizations that have benefited from his service are extremely grateful.

Also, as someone who admires Dr. Wright greatly, I feel blessed to have known him. I am honored to call Dr. Wright a constituent, and friend. May our community and our country continue to benefit from his tremendous legacy of service.

TRIBUTE TO THE WASHINGTON
FIRE COMPANY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Washington Fire Company No. 1 on the dedication of its firehouse and the housing of its equipment.

The station will be home to the fire company's new 2007 E-One Rescue Pumper as well as its 1999 E-One Ladder truck and its 1990 E-One Rescue Pumper. It will also house the pride and joy of the company, a beautiful, fully restored 1924 American LaFrance Pumper.

This new station is twice the size of the previous station, and will allow the members of the Company to more effectively protect the Borough of Conshohocken, which they have proudly served since 1874. From a small hose house 128 years ago to a new modern facility with a banquet hall, the Washington Fire Company has remained a staple of the Borough of Conshohocken.

The fire company's mission has expanded over time to include not only protecting the community, but also educating it. The company hosts an annual "Fire Prevention Show" that teaches the community about fire prevention and what to do in the case of a fire emergency.

The members of Washington Fire Company No. 1 selflessly serve the community while balancing their full-time careers and families. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and pride with which they serve the community has persevered. I ask everyone to join me in commending the members of the Washington Fire Company, past and present, and to congratulate them on the dedication of their new firehouse.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY L. CART

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sherry L. Cart, a dedicated woman with a long history of service to our country. Mrs. Cart, a resident of Brandenburg, Kentucky, is retiring on September 28, 2007 after thirty-three years of active federal service.

Sherry Cart began her civilian service career on January 2, 1974. She is retiring, as Deputy Protocol Officer, United States Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Mrs. Cart's hard work has not gone unnoticed during her time at Fort Knox. She was the recipient of the Commander's Award for Civilian Service along with numerous performance awards and service awards.

It is my privilege to honor Sherry L. Cart today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for her service to the soldiers of Fort Knox, the United States Army, and this Nation. I wish Sherry, her husband Steve, and the rest of their family a safe and happy retirement.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, last month this House approved landmark legislation to put our nation on the path toward energy independence. Among other provisions, this bill would provide incentives to encourage the production and use of renewable energy, and calls for greater energy efficiency in both public and private sectors.

When it comes to energy usage, my home town of Las Vegas has received more than its share of scrutiny. But I would like to share with my colleagues an example of how Las Vegas is leading the nation in the effort to become more energy efficient. The following is a response from MGM MIRAGE, the largest employer in my district and a good corporate citizen, to an accusation that the casinos of Las Vegas use too much energy. I would suggest to my colleagues that if more businesses would follow the lead of MGM MIRAGE, the impact on our nation's energy consumption would be substantial.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007.

Hon. CANDICE MILLER,
228 Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: We recently read reports of your comments regarding energy consumption by the Las Vegas gaming and tourism industry. We would like to share with you some of the initiatives that we are taking at MGM MIRAGE to reduce our energy impact in our state.

Currently, we are in the process of building the largest privately funded construction project in the history of our country. CityCenter, a 76 acre, mixed-use urban development in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, will include 2,700 residences and a 4,000 room resort and casino. In keeping with our commitment of green building design and construction, CityCenter is being built according to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards. Once complete, it will be the largest green campus in the history of the United States.

The following is a list of some of the energy efficiency features being incorporated into CityCenter: CityCenter will have a highly efficient state of the art central plant with combined heat and power capability. This combined heat and power plant will utilize excess heat, reusing it for heating domestic water; Facades will have higher glazing to reduce air conditioning costs; "Air-brows" or "shades" on the façade will help to prevent overheating of units from direct sun; A docking station for the room key is being considered for some hotel rooms; when the key is removed most of the lights will

shut down and thus conserve energy; The design maximizes the use of natural light in residential units, thus helping to reduce energy consumption; Most structures will have a reflective roof, also helping to reduce air-conditioning and therefore energy consumption.

In addition to these energy efficient features, we have taken many steps to also improve the efficiency of our existing buildings.

MGM MIRAGE recently implemented improvements in lighting technologies and mechanical equipment that will conserve 23 million kilo-watt hours annually; this is the equivalent of removing over 1,700 homes from the Las Vegas power grid.

The impact on air emissions by not having to produce this energy is equivalent to a reduction of approximately 17,000 tons of greenhouse gas per year; it would take about 500,000 trees to offset that amount of greenhouse gasses each year.

We are also working with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), a not-for-profit think tank that assists companies in identifying and using energy and resources efficiently. The RMI will aid MGM MIRAGE in the development of a corporate strategy for alternative and renewable energy.

We also strive to work in a partnership with our local government in Nevada. Recently, our Senior Vice President of the Energy and Environmental Services Division, Cindy Ortega, was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Nevada's Climate Change Advisory Committee. In addition, we have recently been joined by Gary Mayo as our Vice President of Energy and Environmental Services Division. You might remember Gary in his former capacity as Director of Government Affairs and Corporate Responsibility for Visteon Corporation in Van Buren Township, Michigan.

MGM MIRAGE is committed to continue to demonstrate leadership in the areas of energy and water conservation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about CityCenter, or our efforts with regard to energy and natural resource conservation, please contact Robert Elliott, Vice President of Government Affairs.

Sincerely,

ROBERT ELLIOTT,
Vice President of Government Affairs,
MGM MIRAGE.

SONIA GANDHI SHOULD NOT
SPEAK ON NONVIOLENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I was distressed to learn that the United Nations invited Sonia Gandhi to speak on nonviolence next month. She is the leader of the Congress Party, which has presided over massive atrocities against Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities.

Mrs. Gandhi is Catholic. How can she speak on nonviolence when her party presides over a country in which nuns have been raped and forced to drink their own urine, priests have been murdered, Christian schools have been burned to the ground, and prayer halls have been vandalized?

It was Mrs. Gandhi's party that carried out the Golden Temple massacre that killed so many thousands of innocent Sikhs, including young boys ages 8 to 13. Her party presided

over the Delhi massacres in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered while the Sikh police were locked in their barracks.

It was Beant Singh, a Congress Party Chief Minister, who presided over the murders of over 50,000 Sikhs while he was in office. No one from that party has the moral authority to speak on nonviolence, especially when there are so many better spokespersons, such as the Dalai Lama, who will be in America to receive an award right after Mrs. Gandhi's speech.

Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan wrote an excellent letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, which follows.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
September 12, 2007.

Hon. BAN KI-MOON,
Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag
Hammarskjöld Plaza, New York, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY GENERAL BAN: It has come to my attention that you are having Sonia Gandhi speak to the United Nations on nonviolence on October 2. Mrs. Gandhi has no moral standing to be discussing this subject. I urge you to find someone else. Perhaps the Dalai Lama, who will be in the United States the following weekend to receive an award, would be a good choice. There are other people more qualified than Mrs. Gandhi, as well.

How could you pick the head of India's Congress Party for this talk? India is one of the most violent countries in the world. According to the Punjab State Magistracy, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government. Between 1993 and 1995, according to the United States Department of State, the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) reveals that over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are being held as political prisoners as well. In addition, the regime has killed 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims and tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians in the rest of the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits (the dark-skinned aboriginal people of South Asia, referred to as "Untouchables"), Manipuris, Tamils, and others.

The Gandhi family were perhaps the most cruel of Indian rulers; it was Mrs. Gandhi's mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, who suspended democracy and imposed martial law (dictatorship) on the country. It was the Congress Party under Indira Gandhi, then under Mrs. Gandhi's husband, Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister, that the government carried out the brutal attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, in June 1984, as well as 224 other Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) throughout Punjab. Sikh leaders Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and others, as well as over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in these attacks. The Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, was shot full of bullet holes by the Indian Army. Over 100 young Sikh boys ages 8 to 13 were taken out into the courtyard and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh state. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal" they were summarily shot to death.

After Indira Gandhi was killed, Rajiv Gandhi said, "When a tree falls, the Earth shakes." Then he locked the Sikh Police in their barracks while the government mur-

dered another 20,000 Sikhs in Delhi and the surrounding areas in the massacres of November 1984. Sikhs were burned alive, Sikh businesses were burned, Sikhs were chained to trucks. The driver for Baba Charam Singh, a Sikh religious leader, was killed by tying his legs to jeeps which then drove off in different directions.

Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra looked at the records of the cremation grounds at Patti, Tarn Taran, and Durgiana Mandar and documented at least 6,018 secret cremations of young Sikh men ages 20-30. These young Sikhs were arrested by the police, tortured, murdered, then declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Their bodies were not even returned to their families. They have never officially been accounted for. The Punjab Human Right Commission estimates that about 50,000 such secret cremations have occurred.

For exposing this horrendous atrocity, Sardar Khalra was abducted by the police on September 6, 1995 while he was washing his car, then murdered in police custody. The only witness to his kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police. Once he was arrested for trying to hand a petition to the then-British Home Minister, Jack Straw, in front of the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Police SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna tortured and murdered Akal Takhl Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke and has never been punished for doing so. K.P.S. Gill, who was responsible for the murders of over 150,000 Sikhs in his time as Director General of Police, is still walking around scot-free. He was even involved in leading the Indian Olympic field hockey team. His trip to the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 was protested by the Sikh community in the United States, which is over half a million strong, but he was allowed to come to the Olympics on an Olympic Committee visa. Immediately after the Olympic hockey game, he was shipped back to Punjab as a threat to peace and an affront to the Sikh community. 50 members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to the President protesting his appearance in the United States.

Unfortunately, other minorities have also suffered greatly under the boot of Indian repression. In March 2002, 5,000 Muslims were killed in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand by and let the carnage happen, in an eerie parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in November 1984 in which Sikh police officers were locked in their barracks while the state-run television and radio called for more Sikh blood.

Christians have suffered under a wave of repression since Christmas 1998. An Australian missionary, Graham Staines, and his two young sons, ages 8 and 10, were burned to death while they slept in their jeep by a mob of Hindu militants connected with the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), an organization formed in support of the Fascists. The mob surrounded the burning jeep and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the mob has ever been brought to justice; instead the crime has been blamed on one scapegoat. Mr. Staines' widow was thrown out of the country after the incident. An American missionary, Joseph Cooper of Pennsylvania, was expelled from India after being beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in the hospital. None of the persons responsible for beating Mr. Cooper has been prosecuted. Churches have been burned. Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked and vandalized, priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, all with impunity. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

Amnesty International has not been allowed into Punjab since 1978. Even Castro's

Cuba has allowed Amnesty into the country more recently. What is India hiding?

My organization, the Council of Khalistan, is leading the Sikh struggle for freedom and sovereignty. Working with the Congress of the United States, we have internationalized the struggle for freedom for Sikhs and all the people of South Asia since the Council of Khalistan's inception on October 7, 1987, the day that the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India. We have worked to preserve the accurate history of the Sikhs and the repression of minorities by India by preserving the information in the Congressional Record. We continue to work for freedom for the Sikh Nation. Self-determination is the essence of democracy.

We cannot accept the leader of the Congress Party, the party that carried out the bulk of these atrocities, speaking to an organization like the United Nations on a subject like non-violence, especially when there are much better spokespersons available. I cannot urge you strongly enough to cancel this appearance.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this situation and helping the people of South Asia.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT, SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING MAJOR BERNARD
PROCTOR, PHD

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, our Nation will soon commemorate the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine. Let me take this opportunity to relate the importance of that battle, the largest land battle of the Revolutionary War, and to remember the brave soldiers who fought for the independence of our country.

In 1777, the British army campaigned to control Philadelphia, which was then the capital of the newly-declared United States of America. British General William Howe and his troops approached Philadelphia through the Chesapeake, landing in Elkton, Maryland in early September of that year.

American General George Washington was confident that his army would secure the capital city. On September 9, 1777, American troops were stationed along the Brandywine River, guarding the fords. Washington's strategy was to force a fight at Chadds Ford, where the Americans would have the advantage.

On September 9, a small portion of British troops marched from Kennett Square as if they would battle the Americans at Chadds Ford. However, the majority of British troops this time marched north to cross the river at a ford unknown to Washington and his army.

The battle began in the early morning on September 11. Washington, believing that all of Howe's army would fight at Chadds Ford, was unprepared when British troops arrived at the right flank of the American line. He ordered his troops to take the high ground, near the Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse to defend their position. However, British troops were already stationed nearby, and the Americans were unable to secure these grounds.

General Howe's army soundly defeated the Americans due to their superior position and

the surprise of their attack. By night, Washington's troops were forced to retreat to Chester.

Despite being outnumbered and outmaneuvered, Washington's troops fought valiantly. The American Congress was able to escape from Philadelphia to safety in Lancaster, and then York, PA. Military supplies were also removed from the capital city before the impending British takeover.

On September 26, 1777, British forces marched unopposed through the city of Philadelphia. This takeover proved of little strategic value, however.

Washington's troops regrouped. The General wrote to John Hancock that night, "Notwithstanding the misfortune of the day, I am happy to find the troops in good spirits; and I hope another time we shall compensate for the losses now sustained." Congress sent reinforcements, strengthening the American army.

Washington's troops successfully defended the military supplies in Reading. On June 18, 1778, British troops abandoned Philadelphia and the city returned to American control.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, September 17, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday evening, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3246; rollcall vote No. 867, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1657; rollcall vote No. 868, and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 3527; rollcall vote No. 869.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD "JACK" EUBANKS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Edward "Jack" Eubanks, a proud veteran and dedicated public servant. Mr. Eubanks, a resident of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, is retiring after 43 years of service to our country.

Mr. Eubanks served in the United States Army for 20 years and retired as sergeant first class. His military service included three overseas tours of duty, one being in Vietnam.

Upon his retirement from the Army, Mr. Eubanks joined the Federal civilian workforce at Fort Knox, Kentucky, serving most recently as Chief of Armor Center Protocol. During his 23 years of civilian work, he has been the recipient of the Superior Civilian Service Award twice, the Gold Medallion-Noble Patron of Armor, and the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal.

It is my privilege to honor Jack Eubanks today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to his country. I wish Jack, and his wife Kathy a safe and happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SIR DAVID GEOFFREY MANNING

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the remarkable and significant career of the distinguished British Ambassador to the United States, Sir David Geoffrey Manning. Ambassador Manning is stepping down from his post after 4 years of devoted service and I would like to commend him on his long service to the British Government and his vital contributions to the enduring relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Ambassador Manning began his career as a civil servant in the Foreign and Commonwealth office in 1972, where he was posted in the Mexico/Central America Department. He then served in posts in Warsaw, New Delhi, and Paris. It was in 1990 that Sir David was appointed to the senior position of Counselor, Head of Chancery in Moscow. Ambassador Manning held this post from 1990 to 1993, during which time the fall of communism and the break-up of the former Soviet Union occurred.

In 1995, Ambassador Manning was named British Ambassador to Israel during the difficult period after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He served in that post with distinction throughout his 3 years of service. In 2001, Sir David was appointed to head the UK delegation to NATO in Brussels, a post he held for 8 months until he was designated by Prime Minister Tony Blair to serve as his chief foreign policy adviser. It was in this capacity that he worked closely for Prime Minister Blair in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, and for the 2 years that followed. It was in this position that Ambassador Manning also developed a close working relationship with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who at that time was serving as President Bush's national security adviser.

In September 2003, Ambassador Manning was appointed by Prime Minister Blair to be the British ambassador to the United States, the 40th ambassador to hold this post. In this position, Sir David has played an invaluable role in strengthening the uniquely close U.S.-UK alliance. Now after four years of service, he is leaving Washington and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his distinguished service to the United Kingdom and for the friendship he has consistently shown toward the United States. I have appreciated my dealings with Ambassador Manning on a range of issues including the war against terrorism and the fulfillment of the Irish Peace Process. And on a personal level, my wife Rosemary and I have thoroughly enjoyed our relationship with Ambassador Manning and his wife Catherine.

Sir David, thank you for your impressive service and I wish you and Lady Catherine the best in all your future endeavors.

HONORING MR. CARL ULLRICH

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you to honor Carl Ullrich on his recent induction in the Army's Sports Hall of Fame and his lifetime of service to our Nation's young athletes and his service to our Nation both in U.S. Navy during World War II and in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Ullrich was the first civilian director of athletics at the Military Academy at West Point serving in that capacity from 1980 to 1990. He oversaw five winning football seasons, the program's first three bowl game appearances, and negotiated a deal to ensure the winner of the Commander in Chiefs Trophy was invited to a post-season bowl game.

Mr. Ullrich has a long career in mentoring and teaching our youth and young adults, starting in 1952 with a coaching position at the Friends Academy in New York and includes serving as a coach at Irvington High School and Newark Academy in New Jersey, freshman crew coach at Cornell University, varsity crew coach at Columbia University and Boston University, and as an assistant commandant at the Sanford Naval Academy. He served as athletic administrator at the Naval Academy for 11 years where he supervised the areas of admissions, counseling, recruiting, eligibility, Congressional liaison, and NCAA and AIAW policy, and coached the Navy varsity crew for 6 years, winning the Eastern Intercollegiate championship in 1971.

Additionally, Mr. Ullrich has served as athletic director of Western Michigan University, the President of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, and in many capacities for the NCAA and ECAC. He has also served as the initial Executive Director of the Patriot League, and most recently as the Athletic Director of St. Andrews Presbyterian College. He was awarded the Eastern College Athletic Conference's James Lynah Distinguished Achievement Award in 1995 in recognition of his outstanding success in his career and his extraordinary contribution in the interest of intercollegiate athletics.

Mr. Ullrich served his country in active duty in both World War II and the Korean Conflict reaching the rank of Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Carl Ullrich, an inspiration to over five decades of this nation's young athletes and an exemplary role-model of service and dedication for them to follow.

TRIBUTE TO THE CUSIMANO FAMILY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Cusimano family as they and our community gather this month to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary.

The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary was founded in 1957 by Joseph and Sue

Cusimano in Mountain View, California, Joseph and Sue devoted their entire lives to the work of their business, and to the service of their community. For 50 years, Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary has maintained a family-oriented approach to providing mortuary services to the community—a commitment that has been carried on by their children. In 1980, in recognition of the exemplary professional standards and extensive community involvement, the mortuary was invited to join the distinguished association of Selected Independent Funeral Homes.

Joseph and Sue lived their broad and continuing commitment to the service of their community—ranging from the Mortuary's 50-year sponsorship of the local Babe Ruth Little League team to Joseph's service as the Mayor of Mountain View. The generosity of the Cusimanos also extended beyond our community to others in need, as exemplified by their gift of children's caskets to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City tragedy.

Joseph and Sue bequeathed both their business and their sense of responsibility to their children. The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary is now managed by Matthew and Sherri, who have maintained the spirit of service and community participation that began with their parents 50 years ago. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Cusimano family as they celebrate this special anniversary.

IN HONOR OF VIOLET DE
CRISTOFORO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my district's most outstanding citizens, Violet de Cristoforo. Today, the National Endowment for the Arts will honor Mrs. de Cristoforo with a National Heritage Fellowship Award, our country's highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

Violet de Cristoforo was born Kazue Yamane in Ninole, Hawaii. At the age of 8 she was sent to Hiroshima, Japan for her primary education. Then at the age of 13 she returned to the United States to attend high school in Fresno, California. Upon her graduation Mrs. de Cristoforo married Shigaru Matsuda. It was also around this time that Mrs. de Cristoforo joined the Valley Ginsha Haiku Kai, a local haiku kais, or poetry club, and began focusing on the newer kaiko style that loosened haiku traditional 5-7-5 structure.

With the onset of WWII, Mrs. de Cristoforo, her husband and three children were moved to forced detention facility in Jerome, Arkansas. After her husband refused to complete a questionnaire, the family was split up; Mrs. de Cristoforo and her children were sent to Tule Lake, California, while her husband was sent to a detention facility in Santa Fe, New Mexico. While under forced internment, she wrote hundreds of haikus reflecting on her environment and everyday life in the camps. Sadly, only fifteen of the hundreds of haikus survived upon her release in 1946.

It is important that we recognize Mrs. de Cristoforo not only for her own haikus but for the hard work and dedication she contributed to the preservation, translation and publication

of other haikus of the Japanese culture and life in the forced internment camps. Mrs. Cristoforo's own book, "Poetic Reflections of the Tule Lake Internment Camp, 1944" was published over 40 years after it was originally written. Years later Mrs. de Cristoforo compiled the haikus of many former internment camp poets and published, "May Sky: There's Always Tomorrow: A History and Anthology of Haiku". These poems are not just their history; they are part of our American history, because these people were also Americans.

It is sad that so few of these works survived that time, for not only were many lost in the camps but, prior to their forced detention when many of them were destroyed. At the time Mrs. de Cristoforo and her husband ran a small bookstore in Fresno. This material is forever lost which makes her work that much more important.

Madam Speaker, Violet Kazue de Cristoforo is truly deserving of our thanks and her recognition by the NEA with the National Heritage Fellowship Award is but a small token of appreciation for a lifetime of dedication and sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. EHLERS, Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 867, 868, and 869, I was delayed because my airplane was very late in reaching DCA, due to weather problems in Minneapolis, and I was too late for the votes.

Had I been present I would have Voted "no" on rollcall No. 867, H.R. 3246; "yes" on rollcalls No. 868 and 869, H.R. 1657 and H.R. 3527.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol on Monday, September 17, 2007 and was unable to cast votes on the House Floor that evening.

However, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007; "aye" on H.R. 1657, a bill to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, and atmospheric research, and satellite programs; and "aye" on H.R. 3527, a bill to extend for 2 months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 17, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 3246, H.R. 1657, and H.R. 3527.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 867 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 868 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1657, to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 869 on H.R. 3527, to extend for two months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, I would have voted "aye."

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3096.

When the U.S. and Vietnam resumed diplomatic relations over 10 years ago, it was the hope of many Americans that by increasing economic ties with Vietnam, we would be a beacon of light that would shine on the human rights atrocities also occurring in Vietnam.

Despite increased U.S. relations, Vietnam has failed to protect the rights of its people. The Vietnamese government controls the press, suppressing the basic, core right of free speech that we as Americans hold to be so vital.

While maintaining fiscal relations with Vietnam is important for a plethora of reasons, the overriding consideration for the U.S. in any relationship with a foreign country should be in evaluating how a foreign country treats its own people. The Vietnamese Communist Party has failed the people of Vietnam, and we fail with them if we refuse to recognize the atrocities occurring every day.

This bill, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, is an important step in continuing to keep pressure on the Vietnamese Communist Party. As we have learned in addressing human rights issues in numerous countries throughout the world, one of the most effective methods of protecting the rights of others is to hit oppressive regimes where it counts—in their wallets.

Under H.R. 3096, Vietnam would face losing millions in non-humanitarian aid unless the president certifies that Vietnam begins releasing its political prisoners and protecting the basic rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion—rights that we hold self-evident not

as Americans, but as human beings. At the same time, this legislation provides \$2 million in humanitarian aid for the next 2 years, and \$9.1 million in FY 2008 and \$1.1 million in FY 2009 to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia. Providing access to this programming will help to empower the people of Vietnam and provide even more hope at a time when hope is most needed.

Today, over 1.5 million Vietnamese reside in the United States. In the 11th District of Virginia, the Vietnamese community is a thriving population, many of whom I am proud to call my friends and neighbors. Vietnamese Americans are entrepreneurs, many owning small businesses and serving as constant reminders that the American Dream is alive and well. Their loved ones in Vietnam deserve that same dream.

I commend my good friend from New Jersey and the other sponsors for bringing this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in the passage of this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE BELIZE 26TH
ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 26th anniversary of the Independence of Belize, which will be on September 21, 2007.

On September 21, 1981, Belize became an independent nation within the Commonwealth of Nations, formerly British Commonwealth. Belize is located in South America and is a member of the Caribbean Community, also known as CARICOM.

Belize is an extraordinary country because of its people. Nowhere else in the world are people with diverse ethnicities and heritage so unified and harmonious. The country's population consists of people with Mayan, African, European, Afro-European, and Afro-American ancestry, just to name a few. In recent years, people of Asian descent have made Belize their home.

Due to globalization and other factors the world is getting smaller and smaller. It will be important for countries to be unified in order to interact politically, economically, and culturally within the world. Belize's diverse and unified characteristics can serve as a model to other nations struggling with internal conflict and peace.

I offer congratulations to the people of Belize as they celebrate their independence. I encourage people from all over the world to look to Belize for inspiration and hope for a better world.

TRIBUTE TO ZION EVANGELICAL
AND REFORMED UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Zion Evangelical and Reformed

United Church of Christ in Addieville, IL. One hundred years ago this past Saturday, the congregation of Zion Church of Christ set the cornerstone of their present church building. Contents of the cornerstone included, among other things, the church constitution, membership list, a catechism, songbook, and church calendar.

On May 31, 1908, the new church was finally completed. Over 3000 parishioners and spectators attended the dedication services. The magnificent edifice was erected at a cost of \$23,000 dollars and was hailed in the Nashville Journal as the finest church in Washington County, IL.

But while a sturdy and beautiful building is a testament to the handiwork of the church's carpenters and craftsmen—the success of the Zion Church over the course of a century is a living testament to the souls who fill the church pews. May God continue to bless the Zion Church for another hundred years.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. LARRY
LOVEJOY AND JEAN CARLOTTA
LOVEJOY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two outstanding patriots in the Rio Grande Valley: Rev. Dr. Larry Lovejoy, and his wife, Jean Carlotta Lovejoy. They are very special people in our community and have greatly enriched our lives in south Texas.

Rev. Dr. Larry Lovejoy is a religious leader who uses simple human compassion, courage, and conviction to advocate for religious freedoms. He has worked diligently to make better the lives of both the American and Mexican people who populate the south Texas border community.

His tireless work with those who have less than many of us inspires people to trust him. They know he is working for the betterment of the community we all share.

He has promoted partnerships with the international community among the people of Brownsville, and has been instrumental in efforts to provide fresh clean water to the people living in colonias in Matamoros, Mexico. Colonias are poor, unincorporated neighborhoods outside of cities along the border.

He and his wife, Jean Carlotta Lovejoy, both helped coordinate efforts by the local business community and federal policy makers to a badly-needed new or additional postal facility for the rapidly-growing Brownsville community.

His wife, Jean, his partner in life and work, serves as the Postmaster for Brownsville, TX. She, too, works to improve the lives of everyday citizens in the border area of Texas, particularly the Rio Grande Valley area.

Jean has worked closely with the area food bank to secure food for the economically disadvantaged children of the community. Her efforts have resulted in underprivileged children being able to eat over the summer while out of school. This is an enormous effort on her part.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending these patriots who

love this country and believe in the possibilities of all our citizens—all God's children—to participate in our community and our national life.

IN HONOR OF THE PUBLIC SERV-
ICE OF NOREEN EGAN OF GLEN
ROCK, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous public service of Noreen Egan of Glen Rock, New Jersey. For the past quarter of a century, Noreen has been the rock of the Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

A graduate of Holy Name Hospital School of Nursing and Seton Hall University, Noreen settled in Glen Rock with her husband, Tom, and has raised two sons there—Dan and Jamie. She soon became interested in using her nursing skills to help her community by joining the Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Over the years, she has not only been one of its most active members, Noreen has also served as its Chief and Lieutenant.

Earlier this year, Noreen was nominated by her fellow Corps members for the John R. Rinaldi Special Recognition Award given by the Bergen County Chapter of the 200 Club at their Annual Valor Awards luncheon in April 2007. The award is a highly competitive honor presented to one person each year for his or her outstanding contribution to emergency services. And later this year, the Glen Rock Ambulance Corps will honor Noreen for her 25 years of service at their annual installation dinner.

In addition to serving people in need through the Ambulance Corps, Noreen has also served the children of the Academy of Our Lady as their school nurse for the past 24 years. And, last year, she was appointed Assistant Director for the Glen Rock Office of Emergency Management.

Furthermore, Noreen and Tom Egan—a Vietnam War veteran and Commander of VFW Post 850 in Glen Rock—have cultivated a sense of community spirit and civic responsibility in their sons. Dan, who joined the Ambulance Corps with his mother when he was in high school, is now an emergency room doctor at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York and at Bergen County's own Valley Hospital. Jamie just completed a tour of Iraq as an Army Ranger. The Nation has achieved its greatness because of families like the Egan's.

The Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps has served the people of Glen Rock for just over 50 years—almost half of that with the help of Noreen Egan. She and her colleagues are what make the words of the Ambulance Corps' slogan, "Neighbor helping Neighbor," ring true.

THE RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize outstanding employees of the Officers of the U.S. House of Representatives (Clerk of the House, Chief Administrative Officer, Inspector General, and Sergeant at Arms) who have completed 25 years or more of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In any organization, the most important resource is its dedicated employees, and without these employees, failure is certain. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, contributions, and support of House Members, their staffs and constituents, and the overall operations of the House. These people have accomplished a great many things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives, Members, staff, and the general public are better served because of them. The individuals we honor today have collectively provided 3,896 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Employee, officer, years of service: Maura P. Kelly, Clerk of the House, 50; Doris Boyd, Sergeant at Arms, 42; Ben J. Vann, Chief Administrative Officer, 40; Jerry L. Gallegos, Chief Administrative Officer, 40; Christine Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer, 38; Patricia A. Madson, Clerk of the House, 38; Gerald E. Bennett, Chief Administrative Officer, 38; James L. Newsome, Chief Administrative Officer, 37; Sue E. Dean, Clerk of the House, 36; Rodric J. Myers, Sergeant at Arms, 35; Deborah A. Bates, Chief Administrative Officer, 35; Janice L. Glosson, Clerk of the House, 35; Dane Stalbaum, Chief Administrative Officer, 35; Donna G. Downs, Clerk of the House, 34; Paul F. Lozito, Chief Administrative Officer, 34.

Bobby R. Small, Chief Administrative Officer, 34; H.D. Engel, Sergeant at Arms, 34; Lea Fowlie, Chief Administrative Officer, 33; Donald W. Reedy, Chief Administrative Officer, 33; Gloria J. Washington, Chief Administrative Officer, 33; Flora A. Posey, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; Caroline Klemp, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; Richard R. Villa, Sergeant at Arms, 32; Elliot C. Chabot, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; Elaine Comer, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; David J. First, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; Eric C. King, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; Daniel H. Ertel, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; William P. Sims, Sergeant at Arms, 32; George R. Cannon, Chief Administrative Officer, 32.

Karen F. Forriest, Sergeant at Arms, 32; Marion M. Pacic, Chief Administrative Officer, 32; Kelly D. Patrick, Sergeant at Arms, 32; Marie E. Higgs, Chief Administrative Officer, 31; Alice B. Bridges, Clerk of the House, 31; Sharyn B. Alexander, Chief Administrative Officer, 31; Charles R. McCall, Jr., Clerk of the House, 31; Richard N. Hughes, Chief Administrative Officer, 31; Stanton Sechler, Chief Administrative Officer, 31; Wendell E. Twombly, Chief Administrative Officer, 31; Donald T.

Kellaher, Sergeant at Arms, 31; Robert L. Stallings, Chief Administrative Officer, 31; Bridget A. Cox, Chief Administrative Officer, 31; Deborah M. Spriggs, Clerk of the House, 30; Vincent L. Marcum, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, 30.

Charles D. Roche, Sergeant at Arms, 30; Stefan L. Rusnak, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; James M. Garrott, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; Joe D. Berg, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; Frank H. Jones, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; Newton B. Pendergraph, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; John P. Mooney, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; Trevera R. Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; Mark D. O'Sullivan, Clerk of the House, 30; Alessandro Cusati, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; Cathy J. Kell, Chief Administrative Officer, 30; Michael J. Arceneaux, Clerk of the House, 30; Peyton J. Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Peggy C. Sampson, Clerk of the House, 29; John F. Kelliher, Sergeant at Arms, 29.

Jaqueline L. Hurda, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Carnelius Thomas, Clerk of the House, 29; Michael K. Allen, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Frederick J. Masheter, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Arden Moser, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Robert W. Warnick, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; John T. Lewis, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Douglas C. Toms, Clerk of the House, 29; Ronny K. VanDyke, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; John T. Whitmyer, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; William M. Cox, Clerk of the House, 29; Pearl J. Mangrum, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Lois A. Cortese, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Thomas K. Hanrahan, Clerk of the House, 29; Stephen E. Pingeton, Clerk of the House, 29.

Joseph P. Coppa, Chief Administrative Officer, 29; Joseph A. Lee, Sergeant at Arms, 29; Matthew F. Cizek, Clerk of the House, 28; Patricia N. Smith, Clerk of the House, 28; Willie M. Roane, Chief Administrative Officer, 28; Teresa A. Rowe, Chief Administrative Officer, 28; Alfreda L. Horton, Chief Administrative Officer, 28; Cookie Clark-Henry, Sergeant at Arms, 28; Peter Shipman, Chief Administrative Officer, 28; Patrick H. Pettis, Sergeant at Arms, 28; Timothy A. Claggett, Chief Administrative Officer, 28; Horace E. Hamlin, Sergeant at Arms, 28; Russell A. Malone, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Edwarda P. Moore, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Alvin C. Thompson, Chief Administrative Officer, 27.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, 27; Louis A. Constantino, Sergeant at Arms, 27; Alfred R. Powers, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Stephen P. Mathis, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Ted Daniel, Sergeant at Arms, 27; Sheila L. Roscoe, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; David W. Roth, Clerk of the House, 27; Thomas D'Amico, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; John P. Long, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Mary K. Niland, Clerk of the House, 27; Melissa K. Franger, Sergeant at Arms, 27; Patricia C. Nuzzo, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Ronnie W. Reed, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Nicarsia K. Mayes, Sergeant at Arms, 27; George D. Moore, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, 27.

Willie C. Williams, Sergeant at Arms, 27; Sandra M. Rubio-Marrero, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Kevin N. Chambers, Chief Administrative Officer, 27; Charles M. McGee, Clerk of the House, 26; Helene M. Flanagan, Chief Administrative Officer, 26; Frederick H.

Bowles, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, 26; Philip Melvin, Chief Administrative Officer, 26; Sandra F. Durham, Chief Administrative Officer, 26; Gail P. Davis, Chief Administrative Officer, 26; Anthony A. Thompson, Chief Administrative Officer, 26; Timothy W. Babcock, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; John M. Wright, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Lewis L. Maiden III, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; John L. Carter, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Jeanne M. Mershon, Sergeant at Arms, 25.

Roland S. Janifer, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Janet H. DiMatteo, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Bernestine Kea, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Leslie D. Henderson, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Floyd M. Johnson, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Andrew W. Straughan, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Thomas K. McGarry, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Annette G. Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Su-Hwa Chang, Chief Administrative Officer, 25; Standley Brady, Sergeant at Arms, 25.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and to their respective House Officers in particular. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and they have set an example for other employees to share in their dedication and commitment, and to follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees and celebrate the importance of their public service.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR WALLACE S. HARTSFIELD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the great accomplishments of Reverend Doctor Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr., a minister, dedicated community activist, civil servant, compassionate role model, and a member of the Fifth District of Missouri which I am deeply honored to represent. Reverend Hartsfield retires as Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church on January 1, 2008 after more than 40 years of service to Metropolitan and more than 55 years as a minister of God. He will be succeeded by his son, Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield II.

Our community also rises on this occasion to honor his civic contribution in the renaming of the Parkway Post Office in an area he serves. This is a fitting tribute to Reverend Hartsfield whose legacy continues in his ministry, teachings, and goodwill. The Post Office building, whose new designation will officially bear his name, will celebrate Reverend Hartsfield's spirit and leadership at 4320 Blue Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64130.

Reverend Hartsfield was an only child, born to the late Ruby Morrisette in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 12, 1929. He served a 3-year tour of duty with the United States Army before receiving a bachelor of arts degree from Clark College in Atlanta, now Clark Atlanta University, in 1954. He went on to earn a master of divinity degree from Gammon

Theological Seminary, now the Interdenominational Theological Center, in 1957, also located in Atlanta. He holds many honorary degrees, including a doctor of divinity degree from both Western Baptist Bible College in Kansas City, Missouri and from Virginia Seminary and College of Lynch, Virginia. His first pastorate was in Pickens, South Carolina. He later served in Wichita, Kansas; Barstow, Florida; and Brunswick, Georgia. As a scholastic theologian, Rev. Hartsfield serves on the board of directors at the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, Georgia, in addition to serving as an adjunct professor of the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. He is affectionately referred to as the "Dean of Kansas City's ministers" by all denominations. A friend and honored minister, I have dubbed Dr. Hartsfield the "Godfather of Preachers" because of his vast ministerial knowledge and oratorical skills.

Reverend Hartsfield celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife Matilda Hopkins on August 28. They are the proud parents of four children, Pamela Faith, Danise Hope, Ruby Love, and Wallace S. Hartsfield II.

Shining brightly as an example of unwavering open-mindedness, commitment, and heartfelt participation within his national community, Reverend Hartsfield has revealed himself as the quintessential citizen of both our American and world populations. The honor owed to this great leader and devoted man of profound faith reaches beyond our local, state, and national levels and touches our wider international community, just as he has sought to touch all of those he has met wherever he goes. He has fought tirelessly to promote, protect, and ensure civil rights and civil liberties for African Americans and other minorities throughout our great nation during its most shameful hours of injustice. He remains a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity created for African Americans. As a prolific and dynamic speaker, he has often been asked to serve as a guest speaker for lectures at colleges, universities, and seminaries locally and internationally, including as far from home as Australia. In 2006, he was selected as a member of an inter-denominational group and met with Turkish officials to tour the country and broaden international faith and community relations.

In many diverse capacities, Reverend Hartsfield has guided his broader, national faith community throughout the entirety of his devotion as a minister. He is a former chairman of the Congress of National Black Churches, representing over 65,000 churches with over 20 million members. Within the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., he served as a member on the Foreign Mission Board, was secretary and treasurer of the Benevolent Board and Insurance Commission, is a former chairman of its Economic Development Commission, is former second vice president, and is currently vice president at large under the leadership of Dr. Stephen J. Thurston.

Our greater Kansas City and Missouri communities stand stronger having been both blessed with and built upon by a cornerstone as unshakable and committed as Reverend Hartsfield. He was at the forefront of successful efforts to construct low income, 60 unit housing developments known as the Metropolitan Homes, located near the Linwood

Shopping Center, the creation of which is also due largely to the encouragement of Reverend Hartsfield. Furthermore, he served as president of the Baptist Ministers Union, an influential organizer for the Concerned Clergy Association, and a moderator for the Sunshine District Association. Appointed by the Governor, Reverend Hartsfield served as commissioner on the Missouri Highway Commission. He was also president of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of Operation PUSH, an organization dedicated to the promotion of religious and social development and human rights.

While his long list of accolades helps detail his many great talents and achievements, it remains only a small sampling if one tries to understand the deeply positive and vast impact Reverend Hartsfield has so generously imparted to his neighbors. He is named "One of the Top 50 Ministers in America" by Upscale magazine of Atlanta, Georgia. As a local minister, he has received the One Hundred Most Influential Award from the K.C. Globe newspaper, the Greater Kansas City Image Award from the Urban League, and the Minister of the Year Award from the Baptist Ministers Union of Kansas City. As a public servant, a role inexorably intertwined with his role as a minister, he received the Public Service Award from the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, the Role Model for Youth Award from Penn Valley Community College, and the Community Service Award from the city of Kansas City, Missouri, to name only a few.

Having personally been influenced and encouraged by his generosity, compassion, and myriad successful endeavors throughout his career, I find it among the greatest honors and opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the great victories of Reverend Hartsfield as he prepares to enjoy the next stage of his life, retirement from the vocation of compassion he so joyously fills and will continue to fulfill in a new capacity.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to my dear friend, Reverend Doctor Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr., for his loving ministry and limitless dedication to serving the residents of Kansas City, the State of Missouri, and the worldwide community. Strong, sustainable societies are built upon a foundation of goodness and devotion. It is our hometown heroes, like Reverend Hartsfield, the hallowed and benevolent, who ensure the longevity of, and strengthen, our free and democratic way of life. May God continue to bless Reverend Hartsfield as he embarks upon a new journey of embracing and improving the lives around him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on September 17, 2007, my flight to Washington from New York was delayed and I missed 3 recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and had I been present, I would have voted "no" on recorded vote No. 867, "yes" on recorded vote 868, and "yes" on recorded vote 869.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE WILLIAM E. McANULTY, JR.

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the life of a good friend and great public servant. William E. McNulty, Jr., lost his battle with lung cancer on August 23. His passing marks the culmination of an incredible life: the son of an Indiana mailman became the first African American to be elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court.

He will be missed not only by his wonderful family—wife Kristi, sons Patrick and William III, daughters Kathryn and Shannon, and father William E. McNulty—but by legions of friends and admirers who loved him for his incredible wit, his lively intelligence, and his unwavering commitment to justice throughout society.

Bill, or Judge Mac as he was belovedly known, was born in Indianapolis in 1947. He received his B.A. from Indiana University and both his masters and J.D. degrees from the University of Louisville. He was first elected to the bench in 1975 as a judge in Jefferson County Juvenile Court. Two years later he was elected to the Jefferson County District Court, and then he was selected by Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown, Jr., to serve as Secretary of the Justice Cabinet in 1980.

Following his service in Frankfort, Bill was once again elected to the bench, this time to the Jefferson Circuit Court, where he served until 1998, when he became the first African American to be elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

In June, 2006, McNulty was appointed by Governor Ernie Fletcher to succeed Justice Martin E. Johnstone, who was retiring. Then last fall, he was elected to that post. While he tried to play down the significance of being the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court, he was well aware of what his accomplishment meant. Upon his swearing in, he said that other African Americans "will understand this door is open and they are able like any other lawyer or judge to enter."

But McNulty was not like any other lawyer or judge. He was universally recognized and applauded for his fairness, his patience, and his disarming sense of humor. When he learned that he had cancer that had spread to his brain and was to undergo surgery, he said his only fear was that he would "wake up as Clarence Thomas or a UK fan."

Justice McNulty was frequently the recipient of professional honors, including the Henry V. Pennington Outstanding Judge of the Year in 1997, awarded by the Kentucky Trial Attorneys.

Unfortunately, no simple biography can adequately describe the person under the black robe. Bill was one of those rare individuals who was equally comfortable with princes and paupers, and who never thought about the difference. I was fortunate to know him for more than 25 years, and most recently, as we both campaigned last year, I saw firsthand how deeply he cared about the least among us, and how steadfast was his commitment to combat injustice wherever he saw it.

I know he would have seen some kind of cosmic irony in the fact that his crowning

achievement would have ended so quickly, but while his tenure on the Kentucky Supreme Court was short, his legacy to Kentucky justice will endure forever.

INTRODUCTION OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I, along with my distinguished colleagues, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, introduce today the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act. This legislation will redress the inequitable treatment of the Native Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska—Sealaska Corporation—by allowing it to select its remaining land entitlement under Section 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, from designated Federal land in Southeast Alaska.

Congress enacted ANCSA in 1971 to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to the lands that Alaska Natives had used since time immemorial for traditional, cultural, and spiritual purposes. ANCSA allocated 44 million acres and nearly \$1 billion to Alaska's Native people, to be managed by the 12 Regional Corporations, including Sealaska, and more than 200 Village Corporations. While Sealaska is one of the Regional Corporations with the largest number of Native shareholders, with 21 percent of all original Native shareholders, Sealaska received the smallest Regional Corporation land settlement—less than 1 percent of the total of all ANCSA lands.

ANCSA declared that the land settlement “should be accomplished rapidly, with certainty [and] in conformity with the real economic and social needs of [Alaska] Natives . . .” However, after more than 35 years since the passage of ANCSA, Sealaska has still not received conveyance of its full land entitlement. As a result of its small land entitlement, it is critical that Sealaska complete its remaining land entitlement under ANCSA in order to continue to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of its Native shareholders, and of the Native community throughout Alaska.

The Bureau of Land Management projects that Sealaska is entitled to receive between 355,000 and 375,000 acres pursuant to ANCSA. To date, 35+ years after ANCSA's enactment, Sealaska has secured conveyance of 290,000 acres. Accordingly, there are up to 85,000 acres remaining to be conveyed. ANCSA, however, limits Sealaska land selections to withdrawal areas surrounding certain Native villages in Southeast Alaska. The problem is that there are no lands remaining in these withdrawal areas that meet Sealaska's traditional, cultural, historic, or socioeconomic needs, and certain of those lands should more appropriately remain in public ownership. The selection limitations preclude Sealaska from to using any of its remaining ANCSA land settlement to select places of sacred, cultural, traditional, and historic significance located outside the withdrawal areas that are critical to facili-

tate the perpetuation and preservation of Alaska Native culture and history. Moreover, selection from the withdrawal areas would not allow Sealaska to meet the purposes of ANCSA—to create continued economic opportunities for the Native people of Southeast Alaska. Further, more than 40 percent of the original withdrawal areas are salt water and, therefore, not available for selection.

Despite the small land base in comparison to all other Regional Corporations, Sealaska has provided significant economic benefits to not only Sealaska Native shareholders, but also to the other Native Corporations throughout Alaska. Pursuant to a revenue sharing provision in ANCSA, Sealaska distributes considerable revenues derived from its development of its natural resources—more than \$300 million between 1971 and 2005—to the other Native Corporations. Unless it is allowed to select land outside of the designated withdrawal areas, Sealaska will not be able to select land that would allow it to maintain its existing resource development and management operations, or provide continued economic opportunities for the Native people of Southeast Alaska and economic benefits to the broader Alaska Native community through the revenue sharing requirements under ANCSA.

The legislation presents a solution that would allow Sealaska to complete the conveyance of its land entitlement and enable the Federal Government to complete its statutory obligation to the Natives of Southeast Alaska, as promised under ANCSA. The elements of the legislation include the following:

Sealaska would be authorized to select its remaining ANCSA land entitlement from a pool of land outside the existing withdrawal areas established in ANCSA, a majority of which is on existing forest service roads which has second-growth timber land.

Sealaska would be authorized to use a majority of its remaining entitlement for economic development opportunities that would benefit its shareholders, the Southeast Alaska economy, and Native shareholders throughout Alaska.

The legislation would also allow Sealaska to use a portion of its remaining entitlement for sites with sacred, cultural, traditional, or historic significance and for remote Native Enterprise sites with traditional and recreational use value.

The legislation would allow the lands remaining in the withdrawal areas to remain in public ownership, almost all of which are roadless areas, old-growth timber lands, or land with important public interest value.

I thank my colleagues and urge your support for this important legislation for the Native people of Southeast Alaska.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 17, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 867, 868, and 869. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on each of these measures.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, according to Darrel Royal, there are only two sports in Texas—football and spring football. In coffee shops, barber shops and even in the beauty salons all across Texas, the talk is all the same—how's the team gonna be this year? It's that time of year, a time that folks in Texas and across the south prepare for all year long. Football in Texas is its own religion, where even your preacher cuts the sermon short on Sundays to get you home in time to watch the game. Nowhere else on earth will you find a culture so wrapped up in football like we are in Texas.

Proud Texans naturally believe everything is bigger and better in Texas—and that's because it is. And like most fathers, I am a proud dad. My son Kurt started playing football when he was 8 years old and I have watched him play every game from pee-wee football in Humble, Texas until he took the field wearing the purple and white of my alma mater, Abilene Christian University.

Throughout school, Kurt played quarterback. Quarterback is one of those positions that is tough on parents—it's all the frame or all the blame. Every time I saw him take the field wearing number 3, I saw that same little 8-year-old boy full of determination. It was that very determination that led to him walking on at ACU and earning a spot as a safety and becoming an Academic All Conference player. With this new position, came a new prayer for the Poe family. The word “interception” took on a whole new meaning for us.

I was a judge during that time and I would head out on Friday nights after court and drive all night to towns such as Kingsville, Canyon, Wichita Falls, Commerce, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Ada, Oklahoma, and of course, Abilene, to get there for Saturday's game. There is nothing more fun than being in a stadium on that first crisp fall weekend and seeing your team, and your son, take the field to thousands of college fans chanting: W—I—L—D—C—A—T—S, purple, white, purple, white, fight, fight, fight!

Texas football is that of legend and legacy. It has spawned books, movies, and a TV series. A look into a way of life that is so unique, so Texan. It's the Junction Boys, the Tyler Rose, the last minute touchdown run by Vince Young of Texas against USC in the Rose Bowl National Championship game—I was there by the way with my son Kurt. What a game. What a memory.

Yes, Texans love their football—right down to the names they choose for their children to the cars they buy. I am sure there is some big executive up in Detroit wondering why they have to send so many maroon pickups to Texas. We may not have too many fall weddings on Saturdays, because they conflict with college football, but I am willing to bet that you have been to a wedding where the new Mr. and Mrs. took off down the aisle to the “Eyes of Texas” or got a big “Whoop!” after the preacher declared them husband and wife.

Now I am not one to say that we don't love our Texans and Cowboys. A smile still comes across my face when I think of the Astrodome

and those Luv Ya Blue days. But, professional football today just doesn't have that same thrill and excitement anymore. Sure, maybe up North it does since they don't have high school stadiums that hold 15,000 people, field turf, jumbotrons and the caliber of coaches and players we have in Texas.

But it's not just the facilities, what makes the game so special is the atmosphere of it all. It's the band, the drill team, the cheerleaders, the moms selling T-shirts, the school clubs hanging banners—the whole atmosphere is what makes the game great. The whole community comes together, people from all walks of life get together every weekend and share in the tears and cheers and root for their team to victory.

So this weekend and every weekend in the fall, Texas families put on school colors and head to the game. They grab some hot dogs and a coke and take part in one of Texas's finest traditions. You see some of those folks that you went to high school with and some of the same old guys sitting in the same seats they were in 20–30 years ago. The players, the coaches, the trainers, the cheerleaders, the drill team and all those people that volunteer their time to support the kids are all part of the excitement. Football in Texas is something special. It's the Texas Religion.

And That's Just the Way It Is.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN NICK
ANDRYUK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and gratitude that I stand before you today to recognize one of northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens, Captain Nick Andryuk. I have known Nick for many years, and he is one of the most passionate and involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to serving his country and to serving the young men and women of the First Congressional District. Since the mid-1970's, Nick has served the youth of the First Congressional District. Since 1985, he has done so as a member of my Military Academy Board. During this time, Nick has been a constant source of knowledge and insight for students interested in attending the Merchant Marine Academy and all other military academies. Recently, Nick informed me that he will be leaving northwest Indiana and relocating to Texas.

Nick Andryuk was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. Following his graduation from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1974, where he studied structural design, Nick chose to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in marine engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering. Upon his graduation, Nick was commissioned as an ensign in the Naval Reserves, specializing in surface warfare. Always seeking to broaden his horizons, Nick would continue his educational and occupational pursuits over the years to amass an impressive résumé, which includes a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University Northwest and a Professional Engineering License from the State of Indiana.

During his time in the Naval Reserves, Nick held various positions, including: administration officer, training officer, executive officer, and eight additional commanding officer positions. In 1985, Nick was named an engineering duty officer, and finally, in 1995, he was promoted to the esteemed rank of captain. While serving in his capacity as a captain, a position he held until his retirement from the Navy Reserves in June 2004, Nick also served as an explosive safety chief inspector.

While he has served his country and community in various capacities throughout his lifetime, Nick came to be known for not only his wisdom and his willingness to serve others, but also for his strong work ethic, a trait he undoubtedly developed during his career at Inland Steel, later Ispat Inland Steel. For over 26 years, Nick served in capacities ranging from assistant engineer to section manager. Following his retirement from Ispat Inland Steel in 2001, he went on to work as a project manager and engineering consultant with Superior Engineering from 2001 to 2007. In September 2007, Nick accepted a position as vice-president of operations with Zimmerman and Jansen, a company located in Humble, Texas. While he will surely be missed in northwest Indiana, his efforts and the impact he has had on the lives of many students in the First Congressional District are to be admired. I am sure Nick will continue to share his vast knowledge with prospective academy students in his new location, and I wish him well on his endeavors.

Madam Speaker, Captain Nick Andryuk is a friend who has selflessly given his time and efforts to the young men and women of the First Congressional District, and he has served his country with the utmost eagerness and dedication as a member of the Armed Forces. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication, and I ask that you join me in wishing him the best of success, health, and happiness in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TURN-
ABOUT RANCH IN GARFIELD
COUNTY, UTAH, BILL

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would correct a drafting error that involves a 25-acre parcel of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, and land that is part of the Turn-About Ranch, which rehabilitates troubled youth.

An erroneous survey in January 1999 was the cause of this trespass conflict when Congress approved a major land exchange (P.L. 105–335) between the state of Utah and the border of the Grand Staircase Escalante (GSE) Monument. This legislation makes a minor boundary change to resolve the trespass conflict. It would grant the owners of the ranch the right to purchase the erroneously surveyed land at a fair market value, enabling this important and effective program for troubled youth to continue unimpeded.

The Turn-About Ranch has graduated approximately 500 troubled and at-risk teenagers

through an intense program of training and rehabilitation. The ranch also employs about 35 Garfield County residents. The Turn-About Ranch has strong support from the local community, and the Garfield County Commission, as well as approval from the parents of the troubled youth.

The government-owned land administered by the BLM surrounds the congressional action by passing this legislation in Congress. The land was historically used for agriculture and grazing purposes. The Townsend family purchased the ranch and then leased the land to the Turn-About Ranch, Inc., for the sole purpose of rehabilitating the troubled youth, and restoring the values and self-esteem of these wayward teens.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a fair resolution to a technical problem. The Senate Energy Committee staff has expressed support for solving the problem, and the community is eager for this legislation to be passed. I hope Congress can implement this legislation and resolve this problem to continue helping our troubled adolescent teens.

INTRODUCTION FOR H.R. 3565, RE-
QUIRING RATE INTEGRATION
FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICA-
TIONS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation that will require rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges. Specifically, this legislation, H.R. 3565, would amend Section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to provide for rate integration of wireless long distance service within the United States, including the territories. This legislation, if enacted, would require uniformity in rates charged by cellular phone and other wireless service providers for calls and communications to and from Guam within the United States.

Section 254(g) directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "to adopt rules to require that the rates charged by providers of interexchange telecommunication services to subscribers in rural and high cost areas shall be no higher than the rates charged by each such provider to its subscribers in urban areas."

Pursuant to Section 254(g), the FCC promulgated a regulation (FCC Order 98–347) to cover Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) as an interexchange service. CMRS includes Personal Communications Service (PCS) and cellular services. In defense of their Order, the FCC noted that "if Congress had intended to exempt CMRS providers, it presumably would have done so expressly as it had done in other sections of the [1996 Telecommunications] Act."

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, however, subsequently vacated FCC Order 98–347, by ruling that interexchange telecommunication services do not encompass CMRS. In its ruling, the Court cited the phrase "interexchange telecommunications service" contained in Section 254(g). Since wireless telecommunications

technically do not use exchanges, the Court held that "it is by no means obvious that the Congress, when it used a phrase in which the word 'interexchange' is an essential term, was referring to CMRS."

It is, therefore, unclear from the language of the statute whether section 254 applies to wireless services. Section 254 does not include specific language regarding its applicability to wireless services. Nor does it specifically exclude such services. Moreover, the legislative history of Section 254(g) is not instructive as to Congress' intent regarding the applicability of the rate integration requirement to wireless services.

Ambiguity in the law therefore exists. As a result, cellular customers are subject to varying rates for calls made within the United States. This is particularly evident with respect to rates assessed to calls made to Guam and to the other U.S. territories under service plans offered to cellular customers within the 48 contiguous states of the United States. Again, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires rate integration for noncellular, landline communication services. The legislation that I have reintroduced today would simply extend this same requirement to wireless communications.

Rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges is important to businesses and individuals located on the U.S. mainland who engage in regular and reoccurring voice communication with other businesses and contacts located in the offshore territories. Family members and friends are among the customers who are assessed higher and different rates for cellular calls made to Guam or to the other territories. These differences in wireless rates exist despite the fact that the U.S. territories are included in the North American Numbering Plan, the numbering plan for the Public Switched Telephone Network of the United States.

This legislation would bring the uniformity and fairness in rates desired by those consumers located on Guam who aim to keep in regular contact with relatives, friends, and associates who reside in other parts of the United States through the latest technology. Additionally, as technology in telecommunication advances, laws should be updated and developed to keep pace. This legislation would update existing law to take into account advances in and the popularity of wireless telecommunications since enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The legislation would do so in a manner consistent with both a previous, but vacated, FCC Order and with rate integration requirements applied to other more traditional telecommunication technology.

I look forward to addressing the issue of rate integration for wireless services as part of any legislative effort to reauthorize the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO
HONOR BARRINGTON IRVING

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my good friend Congressman

KENDRICK MEEK to introduce legislation to honor the achievements of Captain Antonio Barrington Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent to fly solo around the world. The historic achievements of this dedicated young man are worthy of the utmost respect and recognition by this great Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating his achievement and encouraging youth to pursue careers in aviation.

Barrington Irving was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1983 and soon after moved to Miami, FL. When Irving was 15 years old, he met Captain Gary Robinson, a Jamaican airline pilot who invited Irving to tour a Boeing 777. After this inspirational experience, Captain Robinson became a lifelong mentor, inspiring Irving to fly one day himself. Enduring the challenges of growing up in inner-city Miami, Irving never let his dreams of becoming a pilot be stifled. Irving worked miscellaneous jobs to save for lessons and diligently practiced on a home computer flight simulator. Irving also volunteered quite frequently in his community and eventually earned a joint Air Force/Florida Memorial University Flight Awareness Scholarship to study aviation and take professional flying lessons.

Madam Speaker, Irving took tremendous steps to pursue his dreams in aviation while still a student at Florida Memorial University. In 2003, he contacted companies, including the aircraft manufacturer Columbia, which agreed to provide him with a plane to fly around the world if he could secure donations and components. Over several years, Irving visited aviation trade shows throughout the country and secured more than \$300,000 in cash and donated components for a Columbia 400, one of the world's fastest single-engine piston airplanes.

On March 23, 2007, Irving embarked from Miami, FL, on a 24,600-mile flight around the world in an airplane named "Inspiration." He was 23 years of age while still a senior majoring in aerospace at Florida Memorial University at the time. Irving traveled the world as an ambassador of aviation, teaching young people in 27 cities about opportunities in aviation and the importance of academics. He returned from his journey on June 27, 2007, concluding his flight in Miami, FL.

Impressively, even before his around the world flight, Irving founded the non-profit organization Experience Aviation, Inc. to address the significant shortage of youth pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace. This non-profit has been extremely effective in garnering widespread community support and sponsorship to expose youth and underrepresented groups to opportunities in aviation. Irving continues to be dedicated to his community after his around the world flight and tirelessly works to inspire those around him to reach for their dreams.

Madam Speaker, this young man embodies the perseverance and dedication necessary to truly pursue one's dreams. Barrington Irving realized those aspirations and deserves acknowledgement for continuing to inspire so many. I urge my colleagues' support for this resolution as we work to demonstrate what can be achieved if you never let go of your passion and commitment to the community.

FINAL POST

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Members of the House of Representatives and the American public an article written by Chris Raymond for the *The Director* magazine. The article is a great description of what goes on at The Port Mortuary at Delaware's Dover Air Force Base, the first stop on the final journey for those who have given their life in defense of this Nation.

[From *The Director*, July 2007]

FINAL POST

(By Chris Raymond)

The Port Mortuary at Delaware's Dover Air Force Base exemplifies this nation's highest ideals and those underlying the funeral service profession as it cares for the men and women that sacrifice their lives in defense of our country—Chris Raymond.

Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals—William Gladstone, British Prime Minister.

On this night, the bodies wait quietly in the darkness, their caskets in a long line, positioned with military precision before a large steel garage door. A massive U.S. flag, perhaps 30 by 20 feet, hangs silently above them. In the morning, this flag will offer one final salute to each fallen soldier as the staff of the Dover Air Force Base Port Mortuary drapes each casket with a smaller American flag, a stack of which hang ready on a rack near the exit for this purpose, before carefully wheeling each outside onto a broad cement landing. From there, vehicles will transport each of these meticulously, lovingly prepared men and women to the planes that will fly them home to their grieving families and the military honors each has earned.

On March 23, 2007, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Cedric Thomas knelt before the simple urn containing the cremated remains of U.S. Army Specialist Ross McGinnis during his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Resting his hand atop the urn, Thomas, wearing his full uniform, hung his head for a few moments, saying his silent goodbyes, lost in his thoughts. Rising, Thomas offered one final salute to the 19-year-old who sacrificed his life so he could live.

A few months earlier, on December 4, 2006, McGinnis manned a machine gun atop a Humvee as he, Thomas and three other soldiers patrolled the streets of Adhamiyah, Iraq. From a rooftop, an enemy insurgent tossed a grenade at their truck. Whizzing past McGinnis, the grenade fell through the Humvee's hatch and lodged next to a radio. According to a later account written by Rodney Sherman and published in *The Clarion News*, Thomas recalls McGinnis shouting to his four comrades: "Grenade! It's in the truck!"

Thomas also told the newspaper, "[McGinnis] had time to jump out of the truck."

McGinnis did not desert his comrades, however. Instead, he jumped through the hatch and threw his body atop the grenade. Upon detonation, McGinnis died instantly. While wounded, the four other soldiers survived, thanks entirely to the heroic action of a teenager from Knox, Pennsylvania.

U.S. Army Specialist Ross McGinnis has been posthumously nominated for receipt of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award and an honor bestowed upon only 3,460 other members of the U.S. armed services since its inception shortly before the Civil War. During his funeral at Arlington, McGinnis received full military honors as three of the four people he saved in the Humvee that day paid their respects, after receiving special permission to attend the funeral before returning to the war zone.

Undoubtedly, the staff of the Dover Port Mortuary prepared the remains of U.S. Army Specialist Ross McGinnis during his journey home and before his ultimate interment at Arlington because Dover processes all of our deceased soldiers. Yet, despite his heroism, not one of the roughly 1,200 other military dead that Dover handles each year receive any less care, respect and honor than McGinnis did—regardless of rank and regardless of chosen method or location of interment.

That is simply how the Dover Port Mortuary operates, every day.

A long bus ride from Washington, DC, to Dover, Delaware, eventually delivers me at a security checkpoint just within the fenced-in, razor-wired confines of Dover Air Force Base. After spending more than two hours chatting with the entire NFDA Executive Board, staff members Christine Pepper, John Fitch and Lesley Witter, and former NFDA At-large Rep. Charlie Hastings, who organized this private tour in his home state, the onboard appearance of a military official demanding we surrender our drivers licenses suddenly sobers me.

"Oh yeah," I recall. "Several months ago, I had to provide my Social Security number so Dover could conduct whatever background checks it requires."

Suddenly, the serious nature of an entirely different way of life floods my thoughts. This is no tour-bus lark to visit the sights of Niagara Falls or the Grand Canyon, a feeling reinforced when I see a massive steel barrier descend into the ground so the bus can pass after receiving clearance.

Stepping off the bus, I enter a modern, recently built facility. As the group gathers within the lobby, I gaze at a massive, curved display just inside, constructed of polished gray stone and inscribed across the top with the words "Dignity, Honor and Respect." The sound of falling water fills my ears from somewhere nearby as I read the many panels beneath these words, each listing an "incident" and the number of dead the Dover Port Mortuary handled each time, dating back to the 1960s. The astronauts of space shuttle Challenger; the victims of the Jim Jones tragedy in Guyana in the late 1970s, when I was a kid; many soldiers from Desert Shield/Desert Storm; the remains of Lt. Michael Blassie, the unidentified Air Force pilot representing the Vietnam War at the Tomb of the Unknowns for 14 years until his identification in 1998 and reinterment; the soldiers that died during the failed attempt to rescue the hostages in Iran during the Carter administration; and countless other members of the U.S. armed services.

A guy my age, dressed in a brown polo and multi-pocket khakis, begins addressing our group, welcoming us to Dover. Although William Zwicharowski—"Zig": as we would come to address him—is a licensed funeral director, I can immediately tell he is also military; he stands ramrod straight even when he's being "casual." Noting that the tour we are about to receive is extremely rare given the sensitive nature of Dover's operations, Zig proceeds to explain that the present facility was built about three years ago. While Dover's mortuary operations date back decades, some authorities felt the former facil-

ity looked like a "warehouse" after the attention given by the nation to victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Even if only one grieving family visits the Dover facility each year, these powers realized that this family deserves to know that their son or daughter received the highest level of care and respect, something the ad hoc nature of the former facility did not convey.

Subsequently, Congress authorized the appropriation of \$30 million for design and construction of the present Dover Port Mortuary installation. No other mortuary "model" to emulate existing anywhere else on earth, Zig and his staff helped shape the ultimate design and function of the current facility—the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs. As the tour progressed, I would grow to appreciate the government's wisdom of listening to the practitioner's point of view because every detail in the new facility—from the choice of equipment to the layout of the building itself—reflects the expertise and experience of people that know how to care for the dead while also serving the living.

After fielding our many initial questions, Zig beckons the group to walk around behind the incident display in the lobby. While certainly not hidden in any way, I am amazed to discover a large, comfortably appointed atrium just beyond. A soaring glass canopy overarches many ornamental trees and colorful flowers and plants surrounding a central bubbling water pond. The effect is soothing, even comforting, and again reflects the practitioner's insight: serving the living. Along the perimeter of the atrium, I notice numerous offices, some labeled "Counseling," "Chaplain" or "Meditation."

Zig leads us to the Escort Briefing room. Inside, set up for the next morning, nine chairs at one end of the room hold green folders and clear-plastic bags. On each folder, the name of a deceased soldier. Within each bag, their personal effects. Suddenly, the body count in Iraq I hear each morning on my local news becomes personal. Those are more than just numbers; each represents someone's child, spouse, sibling, friend. And nine more of them or their representatives will sit in these chairs tomorrow with the pain of loss numbing their senses and try to follow the details about a far-away incident that took their loved ones as they view information projected from a laptop computer onto a screen at the front of the room. Some will find comfort in such knowledge. Others will caress perhaps the odd personal effect found in one of the plastic bags. A comb. A calling card. A tattered photo. Still others will hear or see nothing, numb from the immediacy of forever-loss.

The roughly 12 people working full-time at Dover understand this, however. For them, the true essence of what funeral directing is all about reigns paramount, which has nothing to do with "efficiency" or "volume" or getting one family "out" because another is scheduled to arrive in 15 minutes—the buzzwords too often filling The Director and your other trade publications. No, the mantra of these dedicated men and women is consistency; the belief that every deceased armed services member passing through their facility deserves complete, unwavering adherence to the words inscribed atop the incident display in the foyer: Dignity, Honor and Respect. Zig and his staff hold zero tolerance for even one "mishap." As he would later convey during the tour about Dover's meticulous handling of every soldier's personal effects: "It is not okay for us to say we 'only lost one item last year.' You try telling that to a family."

Thus, whatever transpires within the Escort Briefing room the next morning, I know that these dedicated professionals will do

whatever is necessary to afford every survivor with whatever comfort they require, for however long it takes.

The new Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base was designed for both war- and peacetime. Given the U.S. military presence in Iraq, the facility obviously now operates on a wartime status, and Zig and roughly a dozen others work at the mortuary full-time. When the volume of deceased military personnel threatens to grow greater than this crew can handle—which they can generally anticipate courtesy of CNN within 48 hours—Dover activates other professionals from within the military, as well as civilians, to assist.

The process of caring for a fallen soldier is extremely complex, but the Port Mortuary has an amazing system in place and continually strives to handle each case more effectively. Medical examiners want each body returned from the field of battle almost exactly as each man or woman fell, without any live ammunition or grenades, in order to determine if gear improvements are possible to save future lives. This possibly overlooked attention to detail recently resulted in an advancement in each soldier's body armor when Dover's personnel noticed a growing number of deaths due to neck wounds. Insurgent snipers had identified a vulnerability in American military armor—the exposed neck—and consciously aimed their rifles at this spot. Because the staff at Dover recognized this, however, American forces now wear a neck collar, saving an untold number of lives.

The grim fact remains, however, that the Port Mortuary at Dover exists primarily to process those that die defending our country. This begins with the transportation of each body from overseas to another large cement area at the rear of the facility. Transported within aluminum transfer cases, the remains arrive encased in ice and in great condition, usually within 48 hours of death. Again, I feel impressed and oddly proud when Zig relates the solemnity with which Dover's staff receives each case. These are no mere factory workers handling anonymous, insignificant packages along some conveyor belt, I think.

Moreover, despite helping to design and build a state-of-the-art facility, Zig acknowledges that there is always room for improvement in the care he and his staff provides. Thus, their practitioner-practical suggestions have also resulted in several innovations—most of them little things with profound impact. The aluminum transfer cases, for instance, once bore only two handles along each long side, forcing several pallbearers to "pretend" to carry each case and, frankly, forcing others to handle by themselves a heavy load. Because Zig suggested adding a few more handles to each case, these reused transfer cases (once sterilized) now sport the necessary number of handles. Dover's staff also suggested adding insulation to the inside of each transfer case to improve the cooling power of the ice preserving the remains during their journey to Dover.

Once received, the staff at Dover initiates a comprehensive system to track every aspect of a body's progress through the facility. Nearly 200 computers, utilizing a proprietary software program, gather and communicate with each other every detail concerning each particular deceased soldier. Each transfer case is logged in electronically using handheld bar-coding units. (The reason for this will become clear later in this article.)

At this point, each body is scanned in the "EOD Room," which checks for the presence of live explosive ordnance. Again, I begin to appreciate the serious nature of the work these people perform as I glance at the construction of these twin chambers. The doors

and walls consist of one-foot-thick, steel-reinforced concrete, which Zig tells me can withstand the blast of one pound of C-4 explosive. Later, I ask him why bodies aren't scanned for dangerous ordnance before transfer to Dover.

He smiles and says, "I wish I had a dollar for every time I hear that question... I don't know."

Next, each body enters the "Photography/Bar-coding" area. Here every aspect of the deceased soldier whether consisting of a full body or merely a body part—is digitally recorded, assigned a unique bar code and tracked electronically. When/if a body's viscera are removed, Dover even tracks them to ensure their eventual return to the proper body. Such is the dedication Dover provides to ensure that our country's military dead receive the mathematically exacting tender mercies and loyalty to high ideals each has earned.

Fingerprinting of the deceased occurs next, performed entirely digitally in less than 10 minutes and again intended to ensure that no mistakes occur while each deceased soldier remains entrusted to the care of Dover's staff. Offering another practitioner-practical suggestion, Zig notes that he also recommends digital "foot printing" of each body. While yet uncommon, he explains that the skin patterns on the bottom of our feet are as unique as the pads on our fingertips, and while the latter is too often subject to damage, the boots issued to military personnel afford excellent tissue preservation, even in cases involving fire, which can later provide positive identification.

The sophistication of the equipment is impressive, as is the networking that enables an operator to access pertinent information at any time. In fact, this system even helped Zig identify from a small body part one of the terrorists that hijacked the plane that hit the Pentagon on 9/11.

Someone in the group asks what happened to the terrorist's body part. Was it returned? Was it discarded?

A shadow passes across Zig's face and his gaze grows distant. "We decided we are better than them," he says quietly. "We returned the body part in a casket to his homeland."

He leads us toward the next station within the mortuary, which focuses on dental records. As we walk down a hallway, I noticed a framed document on a wall: "Nerve Agent Symptoms and Antidote."

"Truly a different way of life," I think again, not for the last time, before noticing 16 tan-plastic gurneys lined neatly along a wall. I recall Zig mentioning earlier that at the start of the Iraq War, Dover utilized almost everyone of its 75 gurneys.

Within the Dental Station, another impressive device takes digital X-rays of each body. Again, because of the sophisticated computer network at the Port Mortuary, personnel can quickly match these post-mortem scans with existing anti-mortem X-rays, making positive identification possible if not already verified in some other way. It was this device that helped the staff at Dover identify one of the 9/11 victims from only three teeth and a piece of the victim's jawbone.

Another method that Dover uses to identify the remains in its care involves a full-body X-ray. If a decedent remains unidentified at this point, this X-ray enables medical examiners to identify unique qualities within the body, such as healed broken bones. By asking a family if "'Johnny' once broke his arm as a teenager," Dover staff have another tool that helps them make positive identification.

It is important to remember, however, that too often, the body is not intact. In such

cases, a full-body X-ray allows medical examiners to reassociate a severed limb with a torso by matching the ends of bones, joints, etc.

Finally, Zig shows us one more high-tech gizmo in this area of the mortuary: a GE "virtual autopsy" machine. Similar in appearance (to my untrained eye) to a CAT-scan device, this unit records digital information about the decedent's physiology in case it is needed.

We enter the "Autopsy Suite" next, a room even larger than the lobby we first visited. Late in the evening at this point, the work finished, the dozen or so autopsy stations along the perimeter sit clean, spotless, ready for whoever will need one next.

Gazing about the room, I feel my hair tussled as I step into a breeze from overhead. Numerous vents pockmark the ceiling, their louvers rattling, creating a state of constant white noise. Zig smiles, explaining the importance of proper ventilation in this room and that the goal is "windy," that the air is circulated numerous times each hour and that it is "obviously not returned [to the room]."

The "Embalming Suite" is nearly identical to the previous room in terms of setup. Each of the dozen or so stations sits neatly ready for use. Three Portiboy Mark V machines sit near each embalming table, as does a large spool of wire, used to rewire skull fractures. Along one wall, shelves hold the requisite practitioner equipment: body bags, coveralls, pants, caps, personal protection equipment, all in a range of sizes. Above Embalming Station #4, a large American flag hangs on the wall. In a cupboard rests a broad selection of embalming chemicals in a variety of strengths from numerous manufacturers. The choice of fluid type is up to each embalmer, but Dover generally uses a weaker solution in the head and a strong mix in the body because, as Zig says, "You never know where a body is going."

This comment might sound odd given all that the staff at Dover does to positively identify each body and/or body part, but it stems from the electronic bar coding noted earlier, revealing a second important reason for its use. Not only does this method accurately track every item associated with a deceased soldier, but it also reinforces the staffs commitment to treating each case as if it is the single most-important one that each of these professionals will ever handle. Stripped of name and rank, digital bar coding ensures that every set of remains receives the highest level of dignity, honor and respect.

Before leaving this room, Zig further clarifies the Port Mortuary's dedication to caring for the dead while serving the living by noting that every bright-red medical-waste box is X-rayed just in case some personal effect, such as a ring, is overlooked. Each box is then properly stored for 60 days, another precaution. This is also why each individual's initial aluminum transfer case is bar coded upon receipt—in case the need arises to locate a missing personal effect, which might have gone overlooked.

We visit the "Personal Effects" area next. In one room, more than a dozen floor-to-ceiling wire shelving units, each bearing five shelves, hold the electronically tracked personal effects of each person while he or she is prepared. Dover routinely cleans all personal effects before returning them to families.

As the group quietly files out of the room and toward the dressing area, two shelves at the back of the room catch my eye. Labeled "Disassociated P.E.," I stand for a while, alone, gazing at the small number of personal effects that arrived at Dover at some point in the past that could not be reassoci-

ated with someone in their care despite the exhaustive efforts of its staff. A dime. Several long-distance calling cards. Two different photos of the same infant girl wearing a bright yellow dress. The combination to a Master Lock. Small stuff indeed, yet I sadly realize how significant the slightest of these might prove to a grieving family. Shaking myself from my reverie, I again feel proud of the lengths these people go to in order to serve the living before setting off to find the group.

Entering the dressing area, I hear Zig explain the four stages of viewing that Dover assigns to each case: a head wrap, a full wrap, viewable for ID, and viewable. Deaths involving mutilation of the entire body and deemed unviewable receive a dignified full wrap, and Zig demonstrated this process for the group (without the presence of remains). First, Dover staff cocoon the body or body part(s) in absorbent layers of cotton gauze before wrapping it in plastic sheeting. Then a crisp white cotton sheet shrouds the body before a green Army blanket is wrapped around that. Finally, in such cases, the soldier's uniform is placed on top of the fully wrapped body within a casket.

As I watch this demonstration, I sense that death from a bullet must prove easier to prepare, comparatively speaking, versus death caused by a roadside bomb or some other form of insurgent explosive device. I can neither imagine the horrors these people must witness nor fathom how they can handle such, but the respect I hold for their professionalism is undeniable at this point.

"Uniform Prep" is the next area we visit. Here, high Plexiglas shelving units, like you might see in your local department store, contain hundreds of uniform components—pants, shirts, ties, etc.—each in dozens of sizes and representing every conceivable military branch, as well as numerous American flags. On racks located along one wall, freshly pressed uniform jackets hang.

Two walls of this area display every conceivable military medal, insignia, patch, stripe, bar and decoration you can name in plastic packages. John Fitch, a veteran of Vietnam, tells me that each military branch, each division, each unit, has its own special—often unique—insignias, explaining the vast array before us. The Dover Port Mortuary strives in every case to prepare meticulously, lovingly the remains of a fallen soldier as completely and as accurately as possible for the many grieving his or her death. While these walls hold a tremendous number of items to help them "get it right," Zig later states that Dover continually adds such items because it is nearly impossible to have all of them in stock, just in case.

Briefly, I find myself examining, fascinated, the many rows of shiny decorations on these walls as if I'm some dopey tourist in a souvenir shop debating which trinket to purchase for the kids. Then the realization of where I am and the horrible, sad purpose of these items breaks through my fog of denial and I feel ashamed.

Finally, we visit the areas where the staff prepares caskets and urns and gets each case ready for transportation back to his or her family. The Dover Port Mortuary is almost entirely self-sufficient, further testament to its commitment to caring for the dead. Zig explains that Dover even engraves the name plates needed for urns, and will cremate a body at its own facility if a family so desires, before summarizing that Dover handles everything but "sewing the stripes onto uniforms." (I later discover that he isn't kidding. Sewing duties required to meticulously prepare a burial uniform remain the only duty that Dover still outsources.)

A large area at the rear of the facility holds the numerous caskets, urns and temporary containers Dover will need. The mortuary stocks only one type of wood and one type of metal casket, purchased from several manufacturers, as well as Jewish caskets and even oversized caskets, testament again to its dedication to meeting the needs of each unique case with the dignity, honor and respect that each fallen soldier has earned.

The average age of the 1,200 cases Dover's Port Mortuary staff handles each year is 25. Despite the horrors of war, and thanks to the dedication, commitment and expertise of this remarkable facility's full- and part-time employees, Dover returns these young loved ones to their grieving families in a state suitable for viewing 85 percent of the time. (Again, it is crucial to understand that "viewability" has a different meaning here versus that used in a typical funeral home. Sadly, in some cases, only the decedent's head is viewable but not the body, or vice versa.)

As I take my seat aboard our chartered bus and settle in for the two-hour return journey to Washington, D.C., I gaze at the now-illuminated landscape of Delaware through my window as the miles pass unnoticed, lost in thought, sensing the night chill through my shirt. I do not feel like idly chatting right now.

I wish every funeral service professional, every citizen, had the opportunity to experience firsthand the tour I still struggle to assimilate. Learning how each set of remains that arrives at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs is steadfastly treated as unique—as was each individual—and receives from a small group of amazing people the requisite time, attention and care their due moves me profoundly. Each is special. Each is one of a kind. Each—as well as everyone that grieves their death—is worthy of the mathematically exacting tender mercies and loyalty to high ideals each fallen soldier earned. Thanks to this facility and its staff, we—as a nation—bestow such on friend or foe alike.

I will never think of them as numbers again.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3096, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007. H.R. 3096 makes important contributions to the ongoing dialogue with our ally the Socialist Republic of Vietnam regarding the importance of the protection of human rights in Vietnam.

Vietnam, to further its role as a responsible member of the international community, must release individuals imprisoned for political and religious beliefs. The government, through its policies and actions, must display a greater respect for religious freedoms and the rights of minorities. Essential to achieving this goal is for Vietnam to allow individuals who seek such protections full access to U.S. sponsored refugee programs. Further, Vietnam must end any and all support its government officials provide for trafficking of humans. H.R. 3096 makes future non-humanitarian U.S. assistance to Vietnam conditional upon the President of the United States certifying to Con-

gress progress made by the government of Vietnam on these important matters.

I am concerned by reports the government of Vietnam blocks the Radio Free Asia programming. I fully support the provision in H.R. 3096 to authorize appropriate efforts be made to overcome such interference. I also fully support provisions in H.R. 3096 supporting the educational and cultural exchange programs with Vietnam to promote progress toward freedom and democracy.

The protection of the human rights in Vietnam is particularly important to me and the people of Guam. The fall of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975 displaced approximately three million Vietnamese. My late husband Ricardo J. Bordallo, then Governor of Guam, welcomed the 150,000 Vietnamese refugees who landed on Guam's shores in April 1975. I vividly remember how the Guam community came together in solidarity with the Vietnamese people and worked hard to help comfort these brave individuals who had left all their worldly possessions behind in the name of freedom.

The people of Guam empathized with the Vietnamese refugees, and we opened our hearts as well as our island to them. As First Lady, I organized care for the hundreds of orphan babies who arrived as a result of Operation Baby Lift. A poignant experience, this effort remains as one of my fondest memories of my husband's first term as Governor of Guam.

Vietnam today is a country that seeks peace with its neighbors, prosperity at home, and friendly relations with the United States. The provisions contained in H.R. 3096 will help towards achieving those ends.

CONGRATULATING PAYSON, ARIZONA, ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize and honor the Town of Payson, Arizona, which is in my district. This year Payson will be celebrating its 125th anniversary October 3rd through the 7th.

This beautiful mountain village community is known for its natural beauty and deep history. Surrounded by the rich ponderosa pine Tonto National Forest, Payson is located in Gila County at the base of the 7,000 foot, 200 mile long Mogollon Rim, which defines the southwestern edge of the Colorado Plateau. Seven Rim Lakes are located in the vicinity, offering a wide array of outdoor recreation for residents and tourists to enjoy.

In 1882 community leaders surveyed the current town site of Payson, originally calling the settlement Green Valley. The town changed its name after constructing its post office. In 1884 then postmaster, Frank C. Hise, renamed the town in honor of the congressional chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Post Road, Senator Louis Edward Payson, who was instrumental in establishing the post office.

Payson will forever be linked to the American Old West. It was in 1884 that the town held its first rodeo, holding it every year since,

earning the title of "World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo." Author Zane Grey, who idealized the ruggedness of the Old West, used Payson and its surrounding areas for the backdrop and inspiration for some of his literary works, including "Code of the West," "Under the Tonto Rim," and "To the Last Man."

It was not until 1973 that Payson was incorporated, and since then it has grown to become a thriving community that anchors the area known as "Rim Country." I would like to applaud Payson for all of its achievements, recognize its distinct history, and congratulate it on its 125th anniversary. This community serves as a beacon for all other burgeoning south Western communities to follow, and is home to a people of deep community spirit and fervent respect for their environment.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in light of the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, H.R. 3096, which was debated on the House Floor yesterday, September 17, 2007, and which passed overwhelmingly this afternoon, I would like to include in the record portions of the trial proceedings for Attorney Nguyen Van Dai and Attorney Le Thi Cong Nhan who are referenced in this legislation. Both individuals were ruthlessly seized by the Government of Vietnam on March 6, 2007, in Vietnam's most recent crackdown on democracy and human rights advocates. The accused each received years of imprisonment after being found guilty of "disseminating propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," I urge each and every one of my colleagues to read this chilling account of the Vietnamese justice system.

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM;
INDEPENDENCE—LIBERTY—HAPPINESS

THE PEOPLE'S COURT OF HANOI CITY

Preliminary criminal sentence, No. 153/2007/HSST, May 11, 2007. In the name of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, The People's Court of Hanoi City. The Preliminary Trial Committee is composed of:

Presiding Judge: Mr. Nguyen Huu Chinh. People's Jurors: 1. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Ha, 2. Mrs. Tran Hong Thuy. Court clerk/recorder: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Huyen, cadre of the People's Court of Hanoi City, Representative of The Hanoi City People's Office of Procuracy: 1. Mr. Dinh Trong Nghia, Procurator, 2. Mr. Dinh Quoc Thai, Procurator.

On May 11, 2007, the following defendants were preliminarily tried by the People's Court of Hanoi City under Criminal Docket No. 138/2007/HSST of April 24, 2007:

1. NGUYEN VAN DAI born 1969, in Da Trach, Khoai Chau District, Hung Yen Province; domiciled at Apartment 302, House Z8, Back Khoa Communal Building, Bach Khoa Ward, Hai Ba Trung Precinct, Ha Noi City; occupation at the time of committing crimes: Head Attorney of the Thien An Law Office; educational background: Grade 12/12; born of Mr. Nguyen Van Cap and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thom; married to Vu Minh Khanh; arrested and placed under temporary detention since March 6, 2007; is present at the trial.

2. LE THI CONG NHAN: born 1979 in Go Cong Tay, Tien Giang Province; domiciled at Apartment 48 (currently Apartment 316), House A7, Government Office Employees' Communal Building, Phuong Mai Ward, Dong Da Precinct, Ha Noi City; occupation at the time of committing crimes: Staff Attorney of the Thien An Law Office; educational background: Grade 12/12; born of Mr. Le Minh Duc and Mrs. Tran Thi Le; arrested and placed under temporary detention since March 6, 2007; is present at the trial.

Defendant Nguyen Van Dai's trial attorneys: Mr. Tran Lam, Hai Phong City Lawyers Bar (in attendance), Mr. Dam Van Hieu, Attorney, Thong Nhat Law Office, Ha Noi City Lawyers Bar (in attendance), Defendant Le Thi Cong Nhan's trial attorney, Mr. Tran Lam, Hai Phong City Lawyers' Bar (in attendance).

BE IT JUDGED THAT: 1. Relative to defendant Nguyen Van Dai. At both the investigative offices and the trial, defendant Nguyen Van Dai admitted that he had written a number of articles, e.g. "Freedom to Form a [Political] Party" and "Vietnamese People Have the Ability to Build a Multi-Party System". The defendants had distributed these articles through the media of reactionary Vietnamese organizations overseas, and participated in interviews via the Internet with overseas anti-socialist elements. The contents of these articles were meant to smear and degrade the leading role of the VCP. He maintained that under current circumstances, because the VCP did not have enough ability to lead the Revolution Vietnam is in dire need of a change of the ruling party or to a pluralistic, multi-party system in order to emerge out of poverty.

As provided for in Article 4 of the SVN's Constitution, the VCP—the vanguard of the worker class and loyal representative serving the interests of the worker class and the working people—is the leading force of the State and society. That positively affirms that since the VCP is the only preferred leader of the Vietnam Revolution all other political parties and their activities are in fact in non-compliance and illegal. Because of the fact that the defendant is the one who drafted the "Bylaws" of the Democratic Party and supported the platforms of Hoang Minh Chinh's Democratic Party, and that he has also written a number of articles, criticizing the VCP and advocating a pluralistic and multi-party regime, Dai has obviously committed a serious violation of the Constitution and laws of Vietnam.

Based on the admissible evidences and Dai's own admissions at the trial, from the time when the Thien An Law Office was founded to his arrest, Dai had never served as a trial lawyer and acted according to his duties, as specified in his professional license. Instead, he had made contacts and exchanged information regarding democracy and human rights with a number of political opportunists who acted in opposition to the VCP and against the SRV. The defendant had joined and enthusiastically supported the platforms of the so-called Vietnam Progression Party (VPP) and Bloc 8406, a [political] organization founded illegally by Nguyen Van Ly in Vietnam. The defendant had conferred and concurred with Nguyen Van Ly on the platform of the VPP, as well as visited Ho Chi Minh City to engage a number of Do Nam Hai's supporters in various efforts to support both Bloc 8406 and the VPP.

The defendant was also a member of the "Independent Trade Union". He admitted to his contacts with such overseas individuals as Nguyen Dinh Thang, Vu Quoc Dung, Tran Ngoc Thanh, etc., which focused on "democracy and human rights issues". However, seized documents and evidences have attested to the intentions of these exiled Viet-

namese who are fiercely opposed to the State. The defendant's contacts with these subjects have gone beyond the discussion of democracy and human rights issues, and they have in fact intended to form a number of organizations and political parties in opposition to the VCP and the SRV. According to witness Tran Van Hoa's statements, on September 2006 defendant Dai asked the former to come to Hanoi so that they could together make a trip to China, where they planned to meet with Tran Ngoc Thanh, an overseas Vietnamese in Poland to discuss the founding of the "so-called" Independent Trade Union.

Having searched the Thien An Law Office headed by Nguyen Van Dai, and the residence of Nguyen Van Dai, the investigative authorities seized numerous documents, among which there were 121 stacks of documents. Some documents containing contents of extremely reactionary nature are meant to twist the facts about the VCP, and to smear the honor and tarnish the reputations of the Party, President Ho Chi Minh and the top leaderships of the Party and the State, e.g. a document titled "The Vietnamese Communist Party is Bad Karma," and "The Secrets of the New Vietnamese Prime Minister." Another 475-page document, authored by a "Quoc-Quoc," is full of distortions with regard to the history of the revolutionary struggle, the policies of the VCP and the State throughout the different stages of the Revolution, as well as blemishes and bad-mouthing against the high-ranking officials and top cadres of the Party.

The document, titled "Diary of a Victim of Injustice," contains the slants and distortions of facts, and false allegations that the government and police brutally repressed legal complainants. In addition, the authorities also captured many documents written by other anti-State political opportunists, notably "Democracy and Human Rights in VN" and "Eternal Aspirations," authored by Nguyen Thanh Giang. Scores of other documents and publications circulated by overseas Vietnamese organizations include the bi-monthly "Tu Do Ngon Luan," (Freedom of Speech) the "To Quoc" (Fatherland) magazine, the "Tu Do Dan Chu" (Freedom & Democracy) newsletter, the Bloc 8406-proclaimed "The Declaration of Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam". Being very reactionary in content, these documents are full of distortions of the current realities of Vietnam and allegations that all the inalienable rights of the Vietnamese people are being brutally trampled upon and the contentions that their goal is to struggle for a change of regime in Vietnam.

At the trial, the defendant admitted to having contacts and Internet direct-linked interviews with foreign newspapers and radio stations regarding the issues of democracy and human rights in Vietnam. However, documented evidences have revealed that during these contacts and interviews the defendant always provided untruths and distortions regarding the democracy and human rights situation in Vietnam, and provocative bad-mouthing against the socialist regime and the VCP, and he called for a change of regime as well. At the same time, he had received other documents calling for a boycott of the 2007 National Assembly Election. Another document "Wear White on the 1st and 15th of the Month in Support of Democracy," a campaign document published by Bloc 8406 proclaiming 10 conditions for a multi-party National Assembly election. Another Bloc 8406 document initiated the launching of a boycott of the 2007 One-Party National Assembly Election.

Nguyen Van Dai held classes regularly at the Thien An law office to provide propaganda on the subject of Democracy, Human

Dignity and Human Rights. Witnesses Dong Thi Giang, Khong Van Thanh, Nguyen Ba Truc, and Giap Van Hieu that Dai had invited to participate in the classes, all affirmed that during those class lectures both Dai and Nhan had zealously badmouthed the political and social state of the nation, the Government of the SRV. Dai had alleged that the SRV does not respect human rights and has employed torture and violence against innocent citizens. The defendant, while maintaining that the "Party Nominates, Citizen Elects" election trick is undemocratic, called for a change of the socialist regime that would deny the VCP its monopoly of power in order to achieve social equality.

The defendant's criminal conduct has constituted the crime of "disseminating propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," as stipulated in Article 88 of the Criminal Code and determined in the indictment of the Hanoi City People's Office of Procuracy :

2. Relative to defendant Le Thi Cong Nhan. At the investigative offices and at the trial, the defendant admitted that she was a member of the Vietnam Progression Party (VPP) and that of Bloc 8406 (founded by Nguyen Van Ly). Nhan participated as the VPP spokesperson. She indicated that she had joined the party voluntarily. The Trial Committee is of the opinion that the purpose of this organization is to act against the VCP and the SRV in order to drastically change the political regime of Vietnam. Her organization appealed for a pluralistic, multi-party system and incited the people to "Wear White" as a demonstration of support for democracy. As such, the defendant's participation and support of the VPP's platform is a violation of State laws.

The defendant herself wrote the article, "The Truth about the Repeal of Decree 31/CP of April 14, 1997". The content of her article indicates that the repeal of this decree was phony with the intent to misdirect public opinion. In her interviews, the defendant also commented on Directive 37 issued by the Prime Minister that this directive is undemocratic as it prohibits freedom of the press. All her articles contain fabrications, defamations, ridicules, and attacks on the regime. The defendant maintained that the Vietnamese political structure is dictatorial, infantile, and uncivilized. Nhan's articles and documents were distributed in the form of direct answers to foreign radio networks such as BBC, RFA (Radio Free Asia), or Internet-linked interviews with overseas Vietnamese exiles.

In a house search, the investigative authorities have seized many stacks of documents which had been circulated by both domestic and overseas political opportunists. These documents contain bad-intent distortions of the facts and protests against the current directions and policies of the Party and the State. They include: appeals to "boycott the National Assembly Election of 2007; demands for a pluralistic, multi-party system, etc.; instructions for the populace to "Wear White" on the first and 15th day of the month to support democracy in Vietnam; "Let's Paint a Portrait of a Free and Democratic Vietnam"; "How to Fight Fear" (written by Nguyen Van Ly); "The Declaration of Democracy for Vietnam 2006"; "The Preliminary Platform of the Vietnam Progression Party"; "The Founding of an Alliance of National Forces for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights"; "Bloc 8406 To Announce 10 Conditions for a Multi-Party National Assembly Election and How To Boycott This Election"; "Bloc 8406 Initiating a Campaign to Reject the Single-Party National Assembly Election of 2007".

The defendant has also provided her students with propaganda in her so-called "Democracy" course. With great discontent, she has criticized and smeared our regime, falsified the history of the People's VCP-led revolutionary struggle, as well as called for the replacement of the current VCP by another political party or a pluralistic, multi-party system.

The defendant's criminal conduct has constituted the crime of "disseminating propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," as stipulated by Article 88 of the Criminal Code and charged with in the indictment of the Hanoi City People's Office of Procuracy.

The crimes both defendants have committed are very severe. They have taken advantage of their democratic rights and freedom to produce, possess, and distribute various documents meant to libel the People's Government and oppose the SRV. Their conduct is deemed to be dangerous to society. It has generated bad opinion both in and outside of the country, and has directly damaged our national security interests, as well as the benefits and achievements that the Vietnamese people have made throughout our long struggle for building and safeguarding the nation. Their conduct has resulted in the tarnished reputations of the VCP, the socialist regime, and our leaders among the populace. They, being Vietnamese citizens, shall have the absolute obligations to abide by the laws of Vietnam. Consequently, they are to be severely punished, once found to be in violation, as provided for by the laws of Vietnam.

Although still at young age and having yet made contributions to the country, both defendants Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan have committed serious crimes to the detriment of our national interests and security. They need to be severely punished before the court of law in order to appreciate fully the effects of reform, education, and deterrence. In this case, defendant Nguyen Van Dai has been found to have actively engaged in carrying out his crimes although his admissions were not truly sincere. Dai is to deserve a heavier punishment. Defendant Le Thi Cong Nhan has also actively committed her crimes. As she was found not to be fully cooperative in her admission at the investigative offices and at the trial, she is to be punished according to the severity of her crimes.

House arrest shall be an additional requirement to their main punishments, as stipulated by Article 92 of the Criminal Code.

Evidential material: The investigative authorities have seized numerous evidences from the Thien An Law Office, as well as the residences of defendants Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan. It is determined that these evidences were used as a means to have committed their crimes, and therefore shall be confiscated and kept in State's depositories. Other captured evidences, of insignificant values, shall be destroyed.

For the above-mentioned reasons, BE IT DECIDED THAT: Verdict: Defendants Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan are guilty of "disseminating propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam".

Penalty: Nguyen Van Dai is sentenced to 5 (five) years of imprisonment, effective as of his temporary detention which began on March 6, 2007.

Penalty: Le Thi Cong Nhan is sentenced to 4 (four) years of imprisonment, effective as of her temporary detention which began on March 6, 2007.

Additional penalty: Defendant Nguyen Van Dai is sentenced to 4 (four) years of house arrest upon completion of his imprisonment term. Defendant Le Thi Cong Nhan is sentenced to 3 (three) years of house arrest upon completion of her imprisonment term.

Evidential material: to be confiscated and kept in State depositories 6 CPUs, 1 flat-screen monitor, 1 desktop computer (16 inch, make Samsung), 1 digital recorder (make Digital Live SDR-6404), 1 Card Reader (make QS 034 Ba07), 1 desktop computer cable, 1 notebook (make HP:S/NCND604172F; PN EP412UA # ABA), 1 scanner (make Canon F915800), 1 modem (make AR 325W, 6H057-15379), 1 Webcam (Colorvis). Destroyed 2 hard drive, 1 hard disk (make HD080HJ-PIN 137216FL740777P/ V FS S/N081KL702016), 1 hard disk (make SP4011N-S/ NSO1JJ50YB41562-PN: 1187J2FYB 15242P/VFS).

These evidential materials are currently stored at the Hanoi Evidence Depository Locker (Executed per the receipt of April 23, 2007).

Defendants Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan are to be fined a court fee of 50,000 dongs each and are entitled to filing appeals within 15 days of the pronouncement of their preliminary sentences.

For the Preliminary Trial Committee, Nguyen Huu Chinh, Presiding Judge.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN LEIGH
YOUNG

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize one of my constituents, Miss Jordan Leigh Young of Salvisa, Kentucky, who will be performing at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee on Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

As a 15-year-old, this is an exciting chance for Miss Young to showcase her singing and banjo-playing abilities in front of Nashville's Music Row insiders. Her long list of accomplishments proves that she has no difficulty entertaining crowds ranging from three to thousands of people. In fact, she is already a member of the Kentucky Country Music Association and was awarded the 2005 and 2006 Female vocalist and Entertainer of the Year and the 2006 Duo of the Year.

Miss Young's opportunity to perform at the legendary Grand Ole Opry is the grand finale in a series of events that have helped to expand her musical talents beyond the borders of Kentucky. After being selected by CBS News' The Early Show for their "Magic Moment" series, she was invited by her life-long idol, Dolly Parton, to perform at the Opry.

In addition to Miss Young's gift of singing and playing the 5 string banjo, she also knows a thing or two about living on a family farm and has done her fair share of hard work. Part of this work includes raising and showing goats in regional competitions, where she has won several grand championship awards.

I would like to congratulate Miss Jordan Leigh Young for her unique contributions to Central Kentucky, and I wish her the best in her musical pursuits. I have no doubt that her determination will take her as far as she wants to go, and I imagine that many of us will soon be hearing her captivating voice broadcast across national air-waves.