

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS POST 696 IN OWENSBORO,
KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 in Owensboro, Kentucky continue to do to improve their community. Post 696 has exemplified the mission of the VFW: Honor the dead by helping the living.

The post has donated over \$22,000 to local and State organizations in the past year. Beneficiaries of their generosity have included local schools, the Boy Scouts, shelters, and churches. Their generosity has also been extended to organizations such as the Wendell Foster Center, Shriners Hospitals, the Children's Wish Foundation, the Disabled American Veterans, and JEVCO.

Post 696 recently sponsored a going-away picnic for the members of Ft. Campbell's Alpha Troop and their families being deployed to Iraq. The city of Owensboro adopted Alpha Troop through the Americans Supporting Americans' Adopt-a-Unit-Program. I thank the members of the troop for their service and the city of Owensboro for this commitment to these brave soldiers.

The VFW Post 696 Honor/Color Guard has been busy serving the community as well. Since 2001, they have participated in over 400 veteran funerals and 50 community events in Daviess County.

I want to recognize the leaders of Post 696, Commander Richard "Ike" Eisenmenger, Jr., Ladies Auxiliary President Marilu Goodsell, and Color/Honor Guard Commander Joseph Hayden. They have worked tirelessly to serve veterans and improve their community.

It is my privilege to honor the members of VFW Post 696 today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for their past service to our country and continued dedication to serving their community.

RECOGNIZING USO MARINE OF
THE YEAR—SGT. JUSTIN CLOUGH

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the military service of Sgt Justin Clough, the most recent recipient of the USO's Marine of the Year award.

Although Justin is only 22, he has demonstrated bravery and leadership beyond his years. Since joining the U.S. Marine Corps, Justin has served two tours of duty and led more than 100 combat missions in Iraq as the squad leader of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine

Regiment. During these missions, his squad was frequently attacked by direct and indirect fire. His dedication to leadership and training would ensure the safety of his fellow marines and ultimately prove to save his own life. On December 26, 2006, Justin was wounded by an insurgent sniper while on a routine patrol in Fallujah. Following the attack, his comrades, which included Justin's twin brother Nathaniel Clough, swiftly brought him to safety.

On September 20, the USA recognized Justin with one of its most prestigious honors, the Marine of the Year award at the 66th annual USO World Gala. In addition to the Marine of the Year award, Justin was chosen as the top marine in his company and battalion, awarded with the Purple Heart, and recommended for the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valor.

Since returning to Stonington, CT, Justin has balanced physical therapy and volunteer work with the local high school football team. Upon receiving his medical discharge papers, he hopes to attend a university or work on a military base as a civilian.

While his presence will certainly be missed in the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, his leadership will undoubtedly yield success in future academic and work endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in saluting Justin's service to the Marines and our Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE DOCUMENTARY FILM, "THE BORINQUENEERS"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month to introduce the documentary film "The Borinqueneers." This compelling film chronicles the never-before-told story of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in United States Army history.

El Pozo Productions, in collaboration with Raquel Ortiz, acclaimed producer of "Mi Puerto Rico," released "The Borinqueneers," the first major documentary to chronicle the story of the 65th Infantry Regiment.

Narrated by Hector Elizondo, the documentary explores the fascinating stories of courage, triumph, and struggle of the men of the 65th through rare archival materials and compelling interviews with veterans, commanding officers, and historians.

The 65th Infantry Regiment was created in 1899 by the U.S. Congress as a segregated unit composed primarily of Puerto Ricans with mostly continental officers. It went on to serve meritously in three wars: World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. The unit was nicknamed after "Borinquen," the word given to Puerto Rico by its original inhabitants, the Taino Indians, meaning, "land of the brave lord."

When they were finally called to the front lines in the Korean war, the men of the 65th performed impressively, earning praise from General MacArthur. They performed a critical role containing the Chinese advance and supporting the U.S. Marines in the aftermath of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Sent to every corner of the peninsula, they showed outstanding resilience and a legendary fierceness as combatants, even as they faced discrimination within the Army. But in the fall of 1952 the regiment was at the center of a series of dramatic events that would threaten its very existence.

Puerto Ricans occupy a special place in the history of the U.S. Army. Because of the island's commonwealth status, they don't have the right to vote in U.S. elections, and yet they serve in the military and can be drafted. For many of the veterans of the 65th, this paradox became an incentive to be even more patriotic, to prove themselves in battle 200 percent.

Although thousands of Puerto Ricans have served courageously in the Armed Forces since World War I, their contribution and sacrifices have gone largely unnoticed in the silver screen, until now.

As a testament to the legacy of the Borinqueneers, I submit into the RECORD an article from the New York Times-Metro Section regarding the film, that illustrates the rich history of this unique regiment and recognizes the Puerto Rican commitment to the United States Military.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 2, 2007]

BLOODED IN BATTLE, NOW GETTING THEIR DUE

(By David Gonzalez)

Among the lamps, the religious cards and the knickknacks in Eugenio Quevedo's Upper West Side apartment is a worn and creased Banco Popular envelope. Tucked neatly inside, tiny black-and-white photos taken more than half a century ago show a rifle-toting soldier against a backdrop of hills and mountains.

"Korea was an ocean of mountains," Mr. Quevedo said. "We'd push forward and the enemy pushed us back. It was that kind of war."

He sounded tranquil, which in many ways he is at 81, though his eyes betrayed his emotions. In one corner of his living room, a poster shows the Puerto Rican flag, a nod to where he was born.

"We lost so many," he said. "The American people don't know the sacrifices of so many Puerto Ricans who died in Korea. It was the bloodiest war for Puerto Rico."

It is also a forgotten war for many Americans. Yet in recent months, veterans of a once-storied Puerto Rican regiment, the 65th Infantry Regiment—including Mr. Quevedo—have gotten their due in a documentary called "The Borinqueneers," which was first televised in New York over the summer and continues to be broadcast on public television nationally.

In a way, it is a passionate rejoinder to Ken Burns, whose World War II documentary drew sharp criticism from Latino and American Indian groups for initially ignoring their contributions during that war.

• 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.

Noemi Figueroa Soulet, a New York actress who produced "The Borinqueneers," understands why people were upset with Mr. Burns. But she set her sights on a different battle, in more ways than one.

"Why should we be begging Ken Burns for a few minutes in his series?" she said. "We have other guys we can cover ourselves. I really felt there was enough there to tell our story in a full program."

The idea came to Ms. Figueroa Soulet in the late 1990s, after she saw the film "Saving Private Ryan" and around the time she learned that her husband's uncle had been wounded in Korea.

"I started thinking, what about the Puerto Rican experience?" she said. "I would see a war movie or documentary and I would look for the Latino faces. I always want to see how we are represented. Historically, I knew we served in the military, but you wouldn't know it."

Though she had never made a documentary before, she set out to chronicle the Puerto Rican military experience. In time, she zeroed in on the 65th Infantry's campaigns in Korea.

The regiment, she said, was founded in 1899 as an essentially Puerto Rican unit, including a fair share of island-born officers, led by mainland, or "continental," officers. The group also served in both world wars, though it was in Korea where it was hardest hit.

The regiment's bravery earned the admiration of no less than Gen. Douglas MacArthur, as well as a disproportionate share of casualties when compared with mainland regiments.

One of its continental officers said the unit "got every dirty job that came up," while another said it was so feared by the enemy that "I was very glad the Puerto Ricans were on my side."

But in 1952, scores of soldiers in the regiment were arrested and court-martialed after refusing to fight in battles where untested and poorly led replacement troops were sent to take hills without artillery or medical support. The refusals came after a battle that left hundreds wounded or dead. In another case, they would not follow an officer they knew had no clue where he was trying to lead them.

Some of the men were sentenced to 10 or more years in prison. Outcry over the trials eventually resulted in the Army pardoning them and commuting sentences.

Ms. Figueroa Soulet set out to tell a story that placed the regiment's history in context, rather than let it either be forgotten or reduced to the ignominy of the trials. She said that some Latino organizations that she had thought would be natural allies in her quest to finance and make the film were turned off by the inclusion of the trials and did not support her, while some veterans groups declined to back a project about Puerto Ricans.

She persisted, and was joined by Raquel Ortiz, a producer with many years working in public broadcasting who had produced "Mi Puerto Rico," a well-received documentary on Puerto Rican cultural and political identity.

"Not very many people would have given a first-time producer the amount of time I gave her," Ms. Ortiz said. "I did it because the subject was important to me. She was so committed, too. When I saw the interviews, stock footage and photos, I said 'Wow!'"

The film took nine years to complete and involved interviewing 275 veterans. Ms. Figueroa Soulet has had special showings in various cities, often sponsored by local Puerto Rican and veterans organizations, which have helped spread the word despite the lack of an advertising budget.

It has struck a deep chord in men like Jose Cintron, a retired longshoreman and a Viet-

nam veteran, who was moved to tears when he saw it.

"I was so proud," he said. "For the first time, I did not have to hear about John Wayne. My people took part in this. For once, we get recognized."

Members of the regiment hold on to vivid memories of those who served with them on freezing hillsides, dodging bullets and mortars. Mr. Quevedo still talks about Master Sgt. Angel Ocasio. At the start of an enemy offensive, the sergeant was killed after he had gone around distributing ammunition to Mr. Quevedo and his comrades. Another sergeant—Iglesias was all he could recall—was shot dead when he went searching for Sergeant Ocasio.

"Those two were sent by God," Mr. Quevedo said. "You think of him and the others. They died young. They never had the chance to get married. To be grandfathers. To get to my age. We are the ones who are left."

His friend, Jaime Lopez, sat with him in the living room. He, too, served in the regiment, though they became friends stateside. Mr. Lopez is trim at 77, with a swagger to his step and an unfiltered cigarette in his hand. Mr. Quevedo jokingly calls him "Lee Marvin," which only fuels Mr. Lopez's eagerness to banter.

Mr. Lopez enlisted after high school, saying the military was one of the few options he had as a small-town boy with no money. In Korea, he earned two Bronze Stars, including one for risking his life to wade into a river and rescue wounded comrades while under fire.

He recalled one fierce encounter, when they took a hill, only to find themselves under attack for 12 hours.

"There were dead and wounded everywhere," he said. "Everything was destroyed. Everything. Boy."

He bolted up from his chair, turned away and sobbed. He steadied himself against the dinner table. The only other sound was a clock chiming "Twinkle, Twinkle" at the hour.

"Korea was not easy," was all he said, slowly composing himself.

Since the documentary's completion, the two men have made public appearances together, talking to audiences about their experiences. After years of being footnotes to a forgotten war, they are glad to let others know they were there when they were needed.

"This documentary is something historic," Mr. Lopez said. "You see it from beginning to end and learn that Puerto Ricans fought in World War I, World War II and Korea. The truth is there."

The support of the old veterans, men who came home and settled into uneventful, but blessed, lives is what helped Ms. Figueroa Soulet stick with her project when others would not even return her calls.

"Those guys are my troops," she said. "I look at the long list of organizations who protested the Ken Burns thing and say, 'Gee, none of them contributed to my project.' Some of them would not give me the time of day."

She paused. Being an actress, she knows a thing or two about timing.

"Now," she said, "they're all calling."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANTHONY
TERESI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Anthony Teresi, a life-

long public servant of Chautauqua County, New York, and a truly remarkable man. Mr. Teresi is one individual who truly touched the lives of everyone he met. The impact he made in the city of Jamestown and the county of Chautauqua will forever bear his name and legacy. This article found in the Jamestown Post Journal demonstrates what an amazing man Anthony Teresi was. We will forever feel his presence through the lives of his family.

ANTHONY TERESI DEAD AT 84

(By Patrick Fanelli)

OCT. 10, 2007.—Shortly after hearing the news that his old friend Anthony Teresi died early Tuesday at WCA Hospital, County Legislator Joe Trusso Jr. evoked the Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis," or "Always Faithful."

From Teresi's service in the Pacific theater of World War II to his 16-year career on the Chautauqua County Legislature, Trusso remembers his old friend as someone who was always faithful to his loved ones and to the county he called home for nearly all his 84 years of life.

But considering his role as patriarch of the city's most prominent Democratic family and his long career as one of Jamestown's elected representatives on the County Legislature, Teresi for the most part stayed out of the spotlight, Trusso recalls.

"Tony was never in it for the glory," said Trusso, a Democrat who represents District 16 in the city and served beside Teresi for 16 years. "He was in it to serve."

Teresi's health had been deteriorating the last couple years, but it took a turn for the worst in recent days and spent the past week or so at WCA Hospital in and out of the intensive care unit. As of Monday, his son, Mayor Sam Teresi, expressed his concern that his father would not recover as he had done in the past.

"I couldn't believe it," said Trusso, who heard the news during an Audit and Control Committee meeting in Mayville early Tuesday. "I don't know what happened. That's just the way it goes, I guess."

Teresi's death has brought with it a brief pause in his son's re-election campaign against Republican candidate and former city clerk Shirley Sanfilippo, who offered her condolences to the Teresi family Tuesday and canceled a news conference scheduled for today out of respect for their loss.

In addition, the mayor delayed the meeting scheduled for Tuesday at which his 2008 budget proposal was to have been unveiled, though he says he plans to go forward with it today.

A MAN OF CHARACTER

According to County Legislator Fred Croscut, R-Sherman, the elder Teresi can best be remembered as "a man of character" and "a sincere individual." Croscut also remembers him as a politician whose friends and admirers were not limited to members of the Democratic Party to which he belonged.

"He was a man I don't even think planned on getting into politics," said Croscut, who served with Teresi for eight years. "He was a person who was admired on both sides of the aisle."

Teresi had only just retired after a long career managing various local supermarkets when he was chosen in 1989 to run for the seat long held by former legislator Joseph Nalbano. In turn, he held onto that seat for 16 years until he lost the 2005 election against Conservative Party challenger Tina Hallquist.

Democrats differ on why Teresi lost his 2005 re-election bid. James Ventura, a retiring City Council member who is hoping to replace Trusso in District 16, believes Teresi

lost because he failed to win the all-important Independence line on the ballot. Trusso believes new district boundaries made it tougher for Teresi to win, and Teresi's inability to go door-to-door like he used to because of his health made it worse. And the younger Teresi believes his father lost in 2005 because he was facing an especially tough challenge from a qualified candidate.

Whatever the reason, Mrs. Hallquist said both she and her former opponent soon became friends.

"I only knew Mr. Teresi for a short time, and was blessed because of it," Mrs. Hallquist said, describing him as a gentle, powerful and inspirational man. "When he said 'thank you' and smiled, it inspired one to run out and accomplish more. To say that he will be greatly missed is the understatement of our community."

Ironically, some say this would probably have been his last term in office since his health had already begun to fail and he would not have been expected to run for reelection again this year. Richard Van Hise, who became friends with the elder Teresi through their work on the county Parks Commission, said his break from politics was well-deserved.

"I felt bad," Van Hise said, "but I talked to Sam (his son) and I said, 'It's just as well. Tony deserves to take a break and relax,' because the legislature was a lot of strain on him. And Sam agreed."

BEHIND THE SCENES

While serving on the Chautauqua County Legislature, Teresi was chairman of the Public Facilities Committee, and he is often credited with taking the politics out of decisions regarding what roads would be repaired at a time when politics reportedly played a big part in that process.

He is also credited with the early days of the proposal to construct a methane-fired power plant at the Chautauqua County Landfill, as well as his work on the project that resulted in the county taking over responsibility for all the bridges from French Creek to Hanover.

"People didn't hear too much about Tony, but he was the driving force in a lot of these projects that people don't know anything about," said Trusso, who frequently ate breakfast with both Teresi and their good friend, the late Fred Cusimano, a former county legislator who died in February 2006.

Teresi was also praised for his dedication to Chautauqua County parks, working on the Parks Commission beside Cusimano and Van Hise even after his legislative career came to a close.

In fact, less than two weeks ago, Van Hise was to preside over a ceremony during which a plaque was to have been dedicated in honor of Cusimano, after whom the Fred Cusimano Westside Overland Trail is named. A rainstorm forced Van Hise to reschedule the event, but Trusso and Teresi didn't get the message. They went out anyway, viewing the plaque by themselves and remembering their old friend.

County Legislator Richard Babbage, R-Bemus Point and another close friend of Teresi's, believes that may have been the last "official" act Teresi carried out.

"I've missed him the last two years," said Babbage, who was the ranking member of the Public Facilities Committee during Teresi's tenure as chairman. "Now that he's gone completely, I'm really going to miss him."

SPIRIT AND DEDICATION

Teresi was born in Sicily and emigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of 4, later graduating from Jamestown High School. In 1942, he hitchhiked to Buffalo and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, soon fight-

ing in the Pacific theater and returning to service during the Korean War, according to Trusso.

"That's the kind of spirit and the kind of dedication he had," said Trusso, himself a U.S. Air Force veteran. "He had public service in his veins. I guess he transferred that to his son."

Speaking with The Post-Journal by telephone late Tuesday, the younger Teresi said that he would never have expected his father to run for office back in 1989, believing his mother, the late Rose Teresi, would have been a better fit for politics.

"He wasn't a politician," the younger Teresi said of his father. "You could have knocked me over with a feather that night when he called me and told me he was going to run for the County Legislature."

After he left the service, the elder Teresi went to work managing various supermarkets like the former Loblaws on East Second Street, and his son says that he was tougher then, better resembling the ex-Marine that he was.

"He made me and a lot of people better because of his high standards and expectations," the younger Teresi said.

But in later years, he could best be described the same way Mrs. Hallquist described him—as "gentle," according to County Legislator Sally Pullano, D-Fredonia.

"He was so very gentle—a gentleman in every sense of the word," she said.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Teresi was a man who fully understood how to live life to its fullest. He knew what the bonds of family meant and how to keep them strong and healthy. Mr. Teresi will be missed by his family and the people of Chautauqua County.

THE CENTENNIAL OF RIVIERA, TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my constituents in the south Texas area from Riviera, Texas, to Baffin Bay—including Vattmann and Loyola Beach—on their centennial anniversary on November 10, 2007.

Baffin Bay is one of the most celebrated—and secret—fishing spots along the Texas gulf coast. And Riviera is so named for the vision of its founder—Theodore Frederick Koch—who saw in it a similarity to the Riviera of France in the early 20th century.

When the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway was completed in 1904, this bit of south Texas land came on the market and caught the eye of Theodore Koch, a visionary land developer, who had immigrated from the Netherlands. The over-20,000 acre parcel of King Ranch land stretching from the railroad to Baffin Bay inspired Koch, who imagined a getaway in South Texas similar to the French Riviera.

Koch's plan was to develop two enclaves: Riviera and Riviera Beach. The two were first connected by a dirt road, then later by a boulevard from the town site 10 miles to the bay front, modeled after those in Pasadena, California, with the center planted with trees and colorful flower beds. The remnants of the Boulevard still stand today.

By 1910 a new bank building and a telephone system came online in the area. In

1912 Koch had a railroad line extended from Riviera and the futures of both Riviera and Riviera Beach looked bright. The train ran several times per month, bringing prospective land buyers and future residents.

But 1916 would bring both beauty and destruction. That year Riviera Beach had a park designed by a florist. The resort's infrastructure was excellent, but a 7-year drought put a major damper on the area's growth. A hurricane on August 16, 1916, nearly wiped Riviera Beach off the map. They rebuilt, but things were never the same.

Yet, Riviera was populated by survivors—whose ancestors had settled the American West. The families who remained built a future for their children and a legacy for future generations.

Like much of Texas, the soil was rich and artesian wells were plentiful in the area, so crops flourished and an extensive network of agricultural, fishing and vacation areas developed in and around the area.

One of my favorite restaurants, the world famous Kings Inn—where many of my colleagues have joined me for meals over the years—is located at Loyola Beach.

There is no small town in America today that better exemplifies victory of the American spirit over adversity, than Riviera to Baffin Bay, Texas. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the communities of Riviera, Riviera Beach, Vattmann and Loyola Beach, as they celebrate their centennial on November 10, 2007.

HONORING 4-H CAMP CLOVERLEAF ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 4-H Camp Cloverleaf of Highlands County, Florida, on their 50th anniversary and commend them for all they have done over the past 50 years to educate Florida's children.

Since the camp was dedicated on June 19, 1957, more than 125,000 campers have learned the values of Florida's 4-H Foundation at the camp.

Organized by the Cooperative Extension System under the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, Florida's 4-H program encourages our youth to become active in their communities and teaches them leadership skills.

Campers at Camp Cloverleaf learn these skills and build lifelong friendships through various activities including team building, plant identification, canoeing, crafts, archery and other exercises and activities.

I would also like to honor the many dedicated volunteers, who have mentored Camp Cloverleafs youth over the past 50 years. Their knowledge and guidance helped make the camp a success.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the 4-H Camp Cloverleaf on their 50th anniversary.

SALUTING PFIZER AND ITS
EMPLOYEES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the charitable donations of Pfizer and its employees.

A corporate leader in southeastern Connecticut, Pfizer's world research and development headquarters is located in my congressional district in Groton, Connecticut. In the August 23 edition of the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Pfizer was recognized as the largest corporate charitable donor in the United States. The Chronicle's study, which encompassed 150 of the largest U.S. businesses outlined in Fortune magazine, examined the amount of cash and product donations during the past 3 fiscal years.

During this period, Pfizer and its employees donated more than \$1.7 billion, with pharmaceutical products composing nearly 95 percent of the total. In 2006, Pfizer donated nearly \$800 million to charities abroad, an increase of 92 percent from the previous year. These donations have greatly contributed to emergency and long-term health needs in developing nations.

Corporate citizenship and philanthropy have filled a significant role in assisting needy groups in our society. As a highly educated, compassionate group of people who are devoted to finding cures for disease and ailments, it is not surprising that Pfizer's employees are leading the way nationally in support of charitable causes.

As philanthropy becomes an increasingly integral component of business practices, we must recognize the importance of corporate charitable endeavors and the positive impacts on local, national, and international communities. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Pfizer's charitable contributions that have supported health and social objectives domestically and abroad.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SIR JOHN
COMPTON TO SOCIETY WILL BE
REMEMBERED LONG AFTER HIS
DEATH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article and an editorial written in the New York CARIB News on September 18, 2007 entitled, "A Legend is Gone" and "The Last of the Region's Charismatic Leaders," respectively.

These reports highlight the accomplishments of Sir John Compton, St. Lucia's Prime Minister who died on September 7th, 2007. As a man of greatness he will be missed but even more as a key Caribbean leader.

He started his career, as an independent leader, as Member for Social Affairs on the Executive Council, post he acquired after winning the 2nd election under Adult Suffrage in St. Lucia, in fact, until 1997, he carried the distinction of being the youngest member of

the country's parliament. He quickly advances in government and formed the National Labour Movement which eventually became the United Workers Party. Under the leadership of the party he was appointed Chief Minister and, when St. Lucia gains statehood in Britain, he became Premier. Almost a decade later, once independence from Britain is achieved, he was appointed Saint Lucia's first Prime Minister, where he continues to contribute to the formation of the country working actively in the government until he fell ill on April 2007.

He was a man of great conviction and aspirations; his dedication to politics is an example to all leaders. It is a shame he will not be here with us to continue to teach us but his legend will prevail for generations to come.

A LEGEND IS GONE

If St. Lucia's twin tower Pitons Mountains could visibly react, they would whisper tears of joy, echoing the speechless humming of the sulphur springs. Deploying time and eternity to celebrate both a son stolen by death, and a man honored in life, these majestic hills would display the sheer relentlessness and untiring work ethic that Sir John personified.

Placed on high alert, the earth endeared by the greenery carpeting the land, would not hesitate to volunteer the service of rainbow colored thunderclouds. Even these pregnant clouds would be expected to carry signs of groaning patriotism, lavaed by a drive in volcano of tribute. A tribute, no doubt that Soufriere's Botanical gardens would give Sir John in the form of scented salutes. Salutes equal to the appropriate sacrifices and unconventional risks he pursued, which were at home with the collective interests of his people.

Although I was born in Antigua and Barbuda, the passing of Sir John particularly touches me, and my sentiments stand revealed for what they are. Besides the fact that my parental lineage is St. Lucian, the many personal interactions I shared with him, and the intense professional relations we had, sponsored insights into the elephantine authenticity of the man.

Since closure brings disclosure, Sir John's death, has not found us feeling that he has died. Through the tranquil gaze of mourning, we see more clearly, how he spun webs of social values and private life into unforgettable last rites of unmatched public service. This man has left us a stubborn legacy that nurtures the courage to live.

SOCIAL VALUES

Loved by friends and embraced by opponents, Sir John knew the distinction between those with whom he had a very different vision of country, and those for whom he was called to serve. But in either case, he never compromised the exemplary leadership of caring for all equally. To Mr. Compton, freedom spelt justice for the poor without eliminating an equal place for the privileged; honor was meant to be faithful to one's values; service was defined by how much it lifted the most unfortunate to real life experiences of decency; and peace was only a positive good if every child were given the opportunity to go to school. Sir John rested calmly, when the wealth of the nation's resources, surrendered to every parent's desire to support their children's dreams.

PRIVATE LIFE

I do not want to evaporate his humanity. It was filled with the antagonisms of greatness and failures. Yet, Sir John will be remembered as a loving grandfather, a caring father, and a special son who made his parents proud. To Lady Jane, he will forever remain, the lover who rang the bell of roman-

tic love within the steeple of her soul. Those who knew him personally remarked that he had the gift of mixing private life with public service. Sir John turned random acts of unparalleled service into a national hero's legacy without straying from the range of the common touch. It could be said that he did meaningful and 'small things with great love' (Mother Teresa).

The Right Honorable Sir John George Melvin Compton was a statesman of an extraordinary texture; incubator of his people's hopes, light bearer of regional cooperation, a firebrand politician with integrity oozing forth from his breathing. He gave supremely of himself with abundance, to every village, town and corner of St. Lucia, and the Caribbean at large.

LAST RITES

Sir John could have stayed in retirement from active politics, but he chose to return as 'Papa' to help the hand that needed assistance. And what a dangerously powerful campaign he showcased—a public good that should be valued for what is really was—a leader's last rites of passage between the cradle and the coffin. Mr. Compton brought his party from the wilderness to the pride of his people's confidence. Some said that he should have known the limits of his health and age, but given his personality and character, there were no limits and certainly no human boundaries that would have kept Sir John away from the love of his life—serving his people selflessly.

STUBBORN LEGACY

The range and scope of his life should not be reduced to 'a do it alone phenomenon.' Sir John's team of leaders, led by Honorable Acting Prime Minister Stephenson King and Honorable Deputy Political Leader Lenard Spider Montoute is just as passionate about good governance as he was. Despite an uneven beginning, the team embodies his vision for the betterment of all St. Lucians in much the same way as Sir John did. The UWP government must competently demonstrate to the world, that Sir John shaped the party leaders, as the party leaders sharpened their deceased leader. It is this mutually intermingling of leadership intelligence that St. Lucians is heir to.

For many of us, Sir John's death will jolt us into deeper civic consciousness blazing in the glory of a wider communal responsibility. His words should continue to challenge us, as his deeds inspire us, not so much to itemize what he did do well or could have done better, but to follow the direction he pointed out, and the path he dared us to journey with him.

St. Lucia is better off for having granted Sir John the honor of several seasons of prosperous leadership, and the Caribbean region would have been worst off, without his strength of character and humble service. His trail of stunting accomplishments and gallant deeds is to be memorialized for countless generations to come. If Rosa Parks were to have been with us, and had the privilege of knowing Sir John, she might have said of him, 'there goes a man who lived his life as a model for others.'

COURAGE TO LIVE

Healing moments of sadness often leaves room for wisdom seen through the prism of serene acceptance. May Sir John's ancestral spirit haunt us until we measure up to the ideals he courageously wanted to attain in his lifetime. When we mirror Sir John in our daily lives, we automatically inherit the courage to live in the wisdom he practiced.

Sir John meant one thing to me, a symbol of unity communicating a sterling message: the affairs of a nation, a people and a region, must be given priority at all times, and in

every possible way conceivable. Should the government and the people of St. Lucia, take one slice of memory from Sir John's closet of great achievements, they would make St. Lucia a model Caribbean nation, where intergenerational prosperity and quality of life development, orders the day. Aung San Suu Kyi is right, "the spirit of a man can transcend the flaws of his own nature."

Dr. Isaac Newton-International Leadership and Change Management Consultant and Political Adviser. He specializes in Government and Business Relations, and Sustainable Development Projects. Dr. Newton works extensively, in West Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America and is a graduate of Harvard, Princeton and Columbia. He has published several books on personal development.

THE LAST OF THE REGION'S CHARISMATIC LEADERS

It was a time most people in the Caribbean abhor.

The British Empire stretched from India, Ceylon, Fiji, Malaya to Singapore, Southern Rhodesia, the Gold Coast, Nigeria and Kenya to Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua, the Bahamas, Jamaica, British Guiana, Barbados, St. Lucia and the islands in between. England ruled over almost every aspect of life, from the cradle to the grave, usually with a heavy hand.

Poverty was everywhere and the white minority population ran the affairs of the islands with little regard for the role of the Black majority. Although lynching wasn't a part of the Caribbean picture, Blacks faced an unresponsive social and economic system that stifled creativity. The trade union movement was in its infancy; schools were few and far between; and health care was so inadequate that the Caribbean's life expectancy rate was less than 50 years, at least years shorter than it is today.

That was the world, more specifically the Caribbean into which John George Melvin Compton was born in 1926 in Canouan, a sparsely populated place in the Eastern Caribbean country that is now known as the United Nations and around the world as St. Vincent & the Grenadines in 1926. But by the time the man who rose to become one of the longest serving Prime Ministers in the English-speaking Caribbean died last weekend after a lengthy illness, the area in general and St. Lucia in particular had emerged as a viable sub-region in the Western Hemisphere with an enviable record of human development.

This archipelago of mostly sovereign states within the Commonwealth of Nations, at the UN and its network of specialized agencies, the World Trade Organization and the Organization of American States had demonstrated that they may be small in geography and population and economic size but they were large in intellect and accomplishment, countries to be reckoned with.

Sir John Compton, 81, on his death in his "beloved" St. Lucia contributed immensely to Caribbean development and was in the pilot's seat when St. Lucia took off and became the place that the United Nations ranked as 76th out of 177 states on its Index of human development.

Interestingly, St. Lucia was 12th out of 103 developing countries when it came to measuring human and income poverty, quite an accomplishment.

Sir John, often called the "father of St. Lucia" for his pioneering work in leading the fight against the oppressive nature of British colonialism, the racism that had an impact on almost every aspect of life in his adopted country and against the roadblocks erected to block self-determination was the man with the vision that led to the island's independence from Britain.

This staunch and unrepentant anti-colonialist was at the forefront of the struggle for respect for the masses of Black St. Lucians, dating back to the 1950's. He used his skill and training as a lawyer and as an economist to chart a course that culminated in his island's record of success as the center of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, OECS.

Sir John who had moved to St. Lucia as a child, and had entered the legislature in Castries in 1954 at the young age of 24 as an elected independent member served as a cabinet minister for several years after the introduction of the ministerial system of government in the 1950's. And when his United Workers Party won a landmark victory at the polls in 1964, he became the head of government or Chief Minister as it was called.

This visionary kept his eyes on the prize for both St. Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean. After Barbados and its eastern Caribbean neighbors couldn't agree on the formation of the "Little Eight Federation" that was being fashioned to replace the defunct West Indies Federation and Barbados moved onto independence, Sir John and many of his counterparts in the Windward and Leeward chain of islands articulated the need for advanced constitutional status labeled Associated States or States in Association with Britain. It was a step towards the sovereignty, which eventually came in 1979 when the island was granted independence from Britain with Sir John as its first Prime Minister.

It wasn't long before the electorate decided to change governments, turning out his United Workers Party in favor of the St. Lucia Labor Party. But when the Labor government imploded after a prolonged period of public squabbling over who should be Prime Minister, in 1982 St. Lucians turned to the man with whom they had developed a bond based on trust.

He returned to the Prime Minister's office and remained at the helm until 1996 when he stepped down and left politics.

The people turned to him once again last year when they became disillusioned with the Labor Party government of Dr. Kenny Anthony in 2006, seeing Sir John as the person who could rescue them from high unemployment, rising crime and uncertainty about where the country was heading.

This stalwart came out of political retirement to take the SLP into the election and in the process shocked the region with a victory but even at age 80. St. Lucians felt he was the person most capable of taking charge.

He tried to put the issue of his age and fitness for high public office in proper perspective when he told the electorate after his stunning victory "age is not a factor here. I am not here running for the Olympics. Age is really a state of mind. I am giving my experience and my intelligence that God gave to me" to the nation.

Unfortunately, his health didn't allow him to fulfill his promise of serving out his term as Prime Minister. Of the many stars in his political constellation one of the brightest was his championing of the regional cause. He was among such towering regional political leaders as Vere Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua, Forbes Burnham, President of Guyana, Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica and Errol Barrow of Barbados, who saw regional integration as the way forward for the small islands.

When he was admitted to the Order of the Caribbean Community in 2002, Caricom's highest honor, Sir John was acclaimed as "the liberator of his nation."

The OCC citation also paid tribute to his success in modernizing St. Lucia's utilities, reforming the social landscape and dramati-

cally improving conditions in the urban and rural communities of his country.

That's how the Caribbean and this newspaper will remember him.

"He gave us all and up to his death was giving to St. Lucia and to the Caribbean," said Sonia Leonce-Carryl, a former top St. Lucian diplomat at the United Nations for more than a decade.

That's a fitting epitaph, which can be inscribed in our consciousness as we mourn his passing and the Caribbean's great loss.

EULOGY FOR EDWARD J. MAHONEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, Friday September 28, 2007, was a sad day for south Buffalo, where we lost one of our proudest sons—former Erie County Elections Commissioner Edward J. Mahoney. A political and personal contemporary of my father and so many of our friends, Ed Mahoney personified south Buffalo, and personified all that is honest and good about public service. Ed taught many of us many life lessons, and I was proud to call him my friend.

Ed's family honored me by asking that I deliver a eulogy at his funeral mass, which I did proudly on October 3, 2007. Below is the eulogy that I delivered that day. Although mere words cannot truly express the man that Ed Mahoney was to all of us, it is my hope that they can serve as a lasting tribute to Ed's life, his family, his public service and to the great impact his service had on our community and our region as a whole.

EULOGY FOR EDWARD J. MAHONEY

Good Morning. On behalf of Barbara Mahoney, and Eddie's children Debbie, Mary Jo, Kevin, Eileen and Christopher and Robert, thank you all for your extraordinary friendship and generosity over the past several days.

In times of grief and sorrow, you again remind the Mahoney family and all of us that we are a community; a family that supports and loves one other in the most difficult of times.

I really shouldn't be here delivering this eulogy. So many others are more worthy than I. Dennis Dargavel, who shared a most special bond of friendship with Eddie, and Michael Millitello, who remains one of Eddie's closest and dearest friends, are two most worthy candidates. I am honored to have been asked, and am humbled by the charge that I have been given.

To Father Greg Dobson, Eddie's loving nephew and devoted priest, thank you for leading us this morning in this celebration of Eddie's life. Your beautiful words of introspection provide context to the meaning of his life and through scripture his new and everlasting life.

Thank you Monsignor Bill Gallagher for welcoming all of us and making us feel at home here at St. John Vianney Church, otherwise known as the southtowns campus of St. Teresa's parish. This is a beautiful and welcoming place of worship, and our hearts are here with you today, as is our hope.

I am convinced that Ed Mahoney would have loved St. John Vianney—because John Vianney was a wonderworker who was loved by the crowds, but who maintained a child-like simplicity. We all know that St. John

Vianney experienced great difficulty as a student studying for the priesthood, but through humility and hard work overcame adversity, eventually becoming a priest and the patron saint of parish priests in the Catholic Church. His days were filled with works of love and charity, he became a ward healer of sorts, and, if you will, a great leader of small democratic institutions.

In fact, I am certain, that had St. John Vianney—no doubt a good Democrat—lived in our time, while studying for the priesthood, he would have worked his way through seminary at the Erie County Board of Elections for Commissioner Ed Mahoney.

A review of Ed's life shows an unparalleled dedication to public service. A decorated veteran of the United States Marine Corps, a Detective Sergeant in the Buffalo Police Department, South District Councilman, Buffalo Recreation Director, membership on the Buffalo Civil Service Commission and 25 years of service as Commissioner of the Erie County Board of Elections. What a record.

Ed served as an active Democratic committeeman for an incredible 54 years, as a city zone leader for 40 years, serving in that capacity with distinction under four Buffalo Mayoral administrations, and serving in other capacities within the administrations of Buffalo's two most recent Mayors, incumbent Mayor Byron W. Brown and the immediate past incumbent, Anthony M. Masiello, both of whom honor Ed with their presence here today. Thank you, Your Honors, for joining us in paying tribute to Ed here this morning.

A proud graduate of South Park High School and Empire State College, Ed Mahoney's life and influence transcended generations, reaching far beyond every conceivable boundary.

Ed loved young people and they loved him. Throughout his career, Ed Mahoney dispensed more patronage and put more young people to work than virtually anyone else.

Kids from South Buffalo's working class families—particularly kids from Seneca Street—would work in the city parks and pools throughout the summer. Ed's influence helped thousands of kids reach their potential and go beyond—helping families pay for school and other expenses that turned their generations into doctors, lawyers, and business leaders that remain active today.

Ed's lifelong friend, retired Assemblyman Dick Keane once speculated that after Mercy Hospital and Sorrento Cheese, Ed Mahoney was the third largest employer in South Buffalo. My father—one of Ed's successors as South District Councilman—would often say publicly that Ed Mahoney helped more young men and women get to and through college than anyone else.

And Ed's willingness to help wasn't confined to kids from South Buffalo. According to his friend, former Erie County Democratic Chairman Joe Crangle, Ed broke the color barrier at the Erie County Board of Elections by hiring its first African American employee—our friend George Campbell. George is here today and he along with dozens of current and former BOE employees join with us to mourn Ed's passing.

Ed Mahoney was many things to many people; a colorful and lively character to be sure. A loving husband to Barbara, Ed was crazy about his kids, his fourteen grandchildren, his brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. But more than anything else, Ed Mahoney was the Commissioner—"The Commish"—always and forever, the Commissioner. This was his public title and what came through his public identity was his great personal qualities, personal qualities that defined the public person. For you see, it wasn't the title of Commissioner that defined Eddie; in reality he would forever define the title.

Our dear friend Assemblyman Mark Schroeder talked often of Ed Mahoney's humility. The word humility is derived from the Latin word, *humilis*, meaning "from the earth." St. Augustine taught us that humility is the foundation of all other human virtues. Ed knew that well.

Dick Keane's statement over the past several days about Eddie's generosity was the shortest and most defining, most revealing. Dick said that "whatever Eddie had, you had half of it." What a testament to friendship, what a testament to love and loyalty, the characteristics that defined Eddie's life.

Dick Keane and Don Kane—spelled "K-A-N-E"—shared a special friendship and bond with Eddie. Don Kane coached Dick and Eddie in the Catholic Youth Council baseball league many years ago.

The scouting report on Eddie was that he could hit the ball but didn't field very well. So, solid coach that Don Kane was, Don put Ed in right field.

Halfway through the game Eddie missed a couple of fly balls. Sensing a problem, Don Kane went out to right field and suggested that Eddie needed to better position himself. He placed a stick on the ground to show Eddie where approximately he should be standing. Well, sure enough, the next inning comes and a fly ball goes out to right. Eddie misses it.

Don Kane goes back out tells Ed that the pop up was a catchable ball and asks, "Why didn't you go after it?" Eddie looked at him and said, "You're the one who told me to stand next to the stick."

Ed Mahoney loved his friends and they loved him. As kids, his social engagement began on Seneca Street and Mineral Springs with Dick Keane, Don Kane, Jack Fahey, Jimmy Morgan and many others.

At DiTondo's with Dick and his son, Judge Kevin Keane, with Dennis Dargavel, Al Roloff, Jack Fahey and his sons Chris and Mike, Johnny Hannon and a variety of special guests like Ray Gallagher, Alan Lewis, and a cast of many others, depending upon the day.

Eddie Mahoney was all about loyalty and friendship. In the Democratic Party, Eddie stated consistently and clearly that he was with the candidate that the Chairman was supporting. The tone and tenor of his voice made the implication clear: that was where he expected you to be as well.

Asked about a hotly contested neighborhood campaign that took place thirty, forty or fifty years ago, Eddie remembered vividly who was with him and who was against him. Eddie he could be forgiving, but he never forgot.

Ed Mahoney was all about loyalty and friendship, but he was a learned man as well. Eddie knew and loved the great Irish poet William Butler Yeats. It was Yeats who wrote that "The lover pleads with his friends for old friends, though you are in your shining days and voices among the crowd and new friends busy with your praise. Be not unkind or proud, but remember old friends the most. For times bitter flood will rise; your beauty perishes and be lost, for all eyes but these eyes."

Alas, Butler Park in South Buffalo—Seneca Street, of course—situated as it is the shadow of the elms bounded by Pawnee and Roanoke Parkways, was not named for Yeats but was instead named for the family who owned the Buffalo News. But Eddie Mahoney had many friends, and kept the old ones from that historic neighborhood particularly close. Pat and Don Kane, Dick and Mary Keane, Dick and Nancy Kreiger, Jack and Mickey Fahey, and many, many others.

Ed's life was not without tragedy and loss, as we all know. Ed and Clare, the loving and devoted mother of his six children, Debbie,

Michael, Timothy, Mary Jo, Kevin and Eileen, suffered the staggering loss of two of their boys, each killed during their teenaged years. That Eddie is now reunited at long last with his sons, Michael and Timmy allows us to accept our loss of him just a bit easier.

As I said, Ed Mahoney was a learned man, and as a good Democrat he had a particular fondness for Robert Kennedy. Eddie campaigned for Bobby Kennedy when he ran for the Senate and for President. They shared a love of politics and they shared the loss of those they each loved dearly.

Triumph and tragedy. The scriptures say that your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And where there is no vision, life shall perish from the earth.

One of Kennedy's favorite poets—the Greek tragic poet Aeschylus, reminded us that God's law commands that he who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep, pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.

Ed Mahoney knew deep pain and boundless joy. He gave and received joy from family, friends and fellow patriots who loved their community and their country. Rest in peace, Commish. Your work on earth is done but your life and the lessons you taught us will live on.

ROFEH INTERNATIONAL—NEW ENGLAND CHASSIDIC CENTER ANNUAL DINNER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, for many years I have had the honor of sharing with our colleagues information about a very important event not just in greater Boston, but from a national perspective. It is the annual dinner of ROFEH International—New England Chassidic Center. Under the leadership of Grand Rabbi Levi Y. Horowitz of the New England Chassidic Center, ROFEH International does extraordinarily important work in the medical field. Rabbi Horowitz is himself a distinguished authority on medical ethics, and plays an important role in helping medical professionals in Boston deal with the ethical issues that modern science encounters. Project ROFEH also plays a very important role in helping provide access to the medical care that is available in Boston to people around the world.

Annually, under the leadership of Rabbi Horowitz, these organizations have a dinner in which leading citizens who have contributed to the work that they do are honored. Without exception they are men and women of great distinction and generosity. This year the awardees are Dr. Kenneth C. Anderson, who receives the ROFEH International Distinguished Service Award, and Keevin Geller, who receives the Man of the Year Award.

Madam Speaker, I was pleased to receive biographies of these two distinguished leaders and I ask that they be printed here along with my congratulations to the people who do the important work of ROFEH International and the New England Chassidic Center, under Rabbi Horowitz's leadership.

KENNETH C. ANDERSON, MD “ROFEH INTERNATIONAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD”

Dr. Anderson graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School, trained in internal medicine at John's Hopkins Hospital, and completed hematology, medical oncology, and tumor immunology training at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He is the Kraft Family Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School; and serves as Chief of the Division of Hematologic Neoplasia, Director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center, and Vice Chair of the Joint Program in Transfusion Medicine at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

He serves as chair of the NCCN Multiple Myeloma Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee; as a Cancer and Leukemia Group B Principal Investigator; on the Board of Scientific Advisors of the International Myeloma Foundation; on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation; as well as on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Leadership Committee of the Multiple Myeloma Research Consortium. He is a Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Research Scientist and has had long term RO-1, PO-I, and SPORE NIH funding.

His numerous awards including the 2001 Charles C. Lund Award of the American Red Cross Blood Services, the 2003 Waldenstrom's award for research in plasma cell dyscrasias, the 2004 Johnson & Johnson Focused Giving Award for Setting New Directions in Science and Technology, the 2005 Third Annual International Myeloma Foundation Robert A. Kyle Lifetime Achievement Award, and the 2007 Joseph A. Burchenal Award for Clinical Research from the American Association for Cancer Research. His paradigm for identifying and validating targets in the myeloma cell and its bone marrow milieu has already provided novel therapies, and offers great promise to improve patient outcome in hematologic malignancies and solid tumors as well.

KEEVIN GELLER, ROFEH INTERNATIONAL NEW ENGLAND CHASSIDIC CENTER MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Keevin Geller, has been proud to call the Bostoner Rebbe, his friend for over thirty years. Mr. Geller is the owner of Barney and Carey Lumber Company since 1978.

In addition to his lumber business, Keevin is a real estate developer and owner. He was one of the first property owners to convert a Back Bay townhouse into condominiums, and went on to complete over twenty-five such projects there and on Beacon Hill. He built and restored many homes in Milton, also creating that town's first condominium complex in the buildings of a former estate. A serious conservationist, he has specialized in the redevelopment of existing structures, while protecting the surrounding land. He was honored with the Commonwealth Award for land preservation.

Keevin was one of the founding members of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He is a thirty-year member of the Hundred Club, and a life member of many conservation organizations. He is a graduate of Boston University, with a major in Latin. His wife, Cynthia, also a BU alumna, is the granddaughter of the late Max Oransky, one of the Rebbe's father's Chassidim. Cynthia and Keeven reside in Sharon, Massachusetts, where he serves on various town committees.

COMMENDING THE KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD FOR ITS SERVICE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY AND THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer a House concurrent resolution commending the First Battalion, 149th Infantry of the Kentucky Army National Guard for service overseas in defense of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the citizens of the United States.

The First Battalion, 149th Infantry, known as the “Mountain Warriors,” recently returned home to eastern Kentucky after completing a 16-month-long tour of duty. While in Iraq, the Mountain Warriors courageously and successfully performed routine and perimeter security missions, mounted combat patrols, and personal security details, among other assignments.

The 149th Infantry lived up to their strong name and tradition with distinguished service and sacrifice and proudly represented our Kentucky mountain heritage. The Mountain Warriors have a long and storied history dating back to the Mexican-American War and they have served our Nation in nearly every major conflict including World War I, World War II, and now our global war on terror. While in harm's way, the Mountain Warriors successfully completed their mission without any loss of life.

This resolution also honors and recognizes the members of the Heavy Equipment Transport Platoon, 2123rd Transportation Company, who recently returned home after completing their tour of duty in Iraq. The 2123rd Transportation Company conducted daily resupply missions including moving tanks, water, heavy equipment, weapons, and guided weapons systems for the United States Army.

Finally, this House concurrent resolution recognizes the members of the Rear Area Operations Command from the Second Battalion, 123rd Armor of the Kentucky Army National Guard. The “Orphan Battalion,” now returned to the Commonwealth, performed base operations for coalition forces in Iraq including 110 combat patrols, site hardening and security improvements, and establishment of 11 guard tower and 17 vehicle battle positions at Qayyarah Airfield West.

These men and women have made Kentucky proud, serving honorably and with steadfast resolve, sacrificing time away from loved ones, careers, and their communities. I want to express my deepest gratitude to these men and women for their service to our great country. I also express my thanks to their families who have waited patiently for their loved ones to return home.

HONORING THE GREATER DALLAS HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on the distinction of being named the “National Hispanic Chamber of the Year” by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

As a six-time recipient of this award, the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has received this honor more than any other Hispanic Chamber in the Nation.

For the past 68 years, the chamber has promoted programs such as the Business Assistance Centers, the Viva Dallas Hispanic Expo, BizFest, and the Stars on the Rise Award & Scholarship Banquet and their newly created External Affairs Department.

I offer my congratulations to the general membership, past and present, along with the current board of directors and staff for this recent achievement. As one of the congressional representatives of the members of this organization, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize them today in the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING MIDDENDORF-KREDELL BRANCH LIBRARY IN O'FALLON, MISSOURI

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Middendorf-Kredell Branch Library in O'Fallon, Missouri, recipient of the 2007 Federal Depository Library of the Year Award.

The Federal Depository Library Program was established by Congress to ensure that the American public has access to its Government's information by disseminating information from all three branches of the Government to over 1,240 libraries nationwide. The depository libraries are responsible for collecting, maintaining and assisting users with no-fee access to the information in an impartial environment with professional assistance.

It is the high level of professionalism demonstrated from staff and the enthusiasm to disseminate information in a user friendly fashion that has rendered the Middendorf-Kredell Branch Library the distinguished title of Federal Depository Library of the Year.

Middendorf-Kredell Branch Library utilizes creativity and innovation in developing various programs. They were one of the first Federal depository libraries to move to an online environment in September 1995 by creating a Government information web site. A standout feature of the web site includes “Uncle Sam for Kids,” one of the first of its kind in the Nation to help kids obtain Federal information for school assignments.

We are so thankful for Middendorf-Kredell Branch Library's leadership in creating programs that are emulated throughout the country and are appreciative for the great work

they are doing in Missouri. Congratulations on an outstanding achievement.

HONORING MAURICE KENNETH
SHAW OF MIDDLETOWN, NJ

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Maurice Kenneth Shaw of Middletown, NJ, who died Sunday afternoon in Riverview Hospital in Red Bank, NJ. Maurice, or "Mo" as he liked to be called, was born the son of a Coast Guard captain on April 16, 1939, while the family was living in Rockville Centre, on Long Island.

After his family settled on Staten Island, Mo graduated from the former St. John's Preparatory School in Brooklyn. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Lehigh University and a master's degree in business administration from Wagner College.

After college, Mo Shaw joined KeySpan, formerly the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, in 1960. He served in a variety of marketing and financial positions and eventually worked his way up the executive ranks until 1999, when he retired as senior vice president and corporate affairs officer. My hometown paper, the Staten Island Advance described "that final role with the company, in which he handled urban affairs and public relations, [as] a perfect fit for Mr. Shaw, who enjoyed making connections in the Staten Island community and lending corporate support to projects he knew would strengthen the borough economically and culturally."

Mo loved the sea, and his accomplishments reflect that passion. Mr. Shaw joined and later became chairman of the board of the Noble Maritime Collection, a museum that showcases the works of maritime artist John Noble. He took on this endeavor in 1998, when the museum had no operating budget or staff, but through his tenacity, commitment, and ingenuity, helped the collection receive regular city funding and contributions from the business community.

Mo was a proud Coast Guard veteran, and he was always eager to support the Coast Guard and the Navy. He served as president of the USS The Sullivans Foundation, which supports the work of the Navy ship that was commissioned in Stapleton, Staten Island in April, 1997. Mo was the driving force behind the commissioning of the USS *The Sullivans*, which his friends describe as an act of love. Afterwards, he formed a new group, the Sullivans Foundation, in order to help maintain a strong link between the USS *The Sullivans* and the local community. This past June, he presided over 4 days of celebration in honor of that ship's 10th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to praise the noble life of Maurice Kenneth Shaw. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Mary Elizabeth, his three daughters, Victoria, Anne, and Elizabeth, and his six grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING HON. JOHN THOMAS
ELFVIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay recognition to the Honorable John Thomas Elfvin, who is retiring after 60 years of service as a judge in the U.S. District Court for Western New York. Judge Elfvin has demonstrated exemplary dedication throughout his career, serving diligently until the age of 90.

I would like briefly to touch on the many areas of service that Judge Elfvin gave to our county. I am proud to mention that Judge Elfvin served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Navy before graduating from Georgetown University Law School in 1947. He worked in private practice in New York City and Buffalo, NY, and was a member of the Buffalo Common Council. Judge Elfvin served on the Supreme Court of New York in 1969 and became U.S. Attorney for Western New York in 1972.

Judge Elfvin was nominated to the U.S. District Court in 1974 by President Gerald Ford. He served as a Federal judge until October 5, 2007. Known for his exceptional work ethic, Judge Elfvin is a wonderful example of what public service should be.

Madam Speaker, I salute Judge Elfvin and congratulate him on his service to the legal field over the past 60 years. I pay tribute to him for his commitment to our community and to our country, and wish him all the best for a prosperous and enjoyable retirement.

FIGHT SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Representative CHIP PICKERING to call attention to one of our Nation's leading causes of death—sudden cardiac arrest. Unfortunately, far too little is known and even less is being done to address the prevalence of this serious condition. Sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of more than 250,000 Americans every year.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest occurs abruptly and without warning, when the heart suddenly stops beating and cannot pump blood to the rest of the body. Contrary to widespread belief, sudden cardiac arrest is not the same as a heart attack. As the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition has noted, if your heart were a house, cardiac arrest would be a problem with the electricity, while a heart attack is a problem with the plumbing.

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at anytime without warning. Unfortunately, even when there may be warning signs, we may not recognize their presence due to a lack of knowledge about what actually occurs during cardiac arrest.

Such was the case for a young man from Southern California named Sebastian Hitzig. At age 24, Sebastian stepped on a toothpick, resulting in a staph infection that led to an inflammation of his heart. Several months after

doctors believed he had recovered, Sebastian went to the gym for his regular workout, during which he suffered sudden cardiac arrest and nearly died. Thanks to a quick acting response team that shocked his heart back to its normal rhythm, Sebastian was literally brought back to life.

Sebastian is one of the few lucky ones to live through a deadly sudden cardiac arrest event. We in Washington have made great strides fighting some of our Nation's deadliest killers. Our next step should be to commit to more research into the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest, including increased awareness efforts to improve public knowledge of at-risk populations. We also must take steps to improve access to Automated External Defibrillators, AEDs, and implantable cardioverter defibrillators, ICD, to strengthen the "chain of survival."

I ask all Members today to join us in calling for a focused effort to fight sudden cardiac arrest and to do so in honor of the countless individuals who survived sudden cardiac arrest and in memory of the more than 250,000 families each year whose loved ones are not as lucky as young Sebastian.

RECOGNIZING ANN WATSON

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Watson, Planned Parenthood of Maryland's Volunteer of the Year and honoree at the first annual William G. Robertson, Jr. Volunteer Award Luncheon, for her 31 years of support for Planned Parenthood and 8 years of volunteer service in the Towson Health Center of Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

The William G. Robertson, Jr. Award is given in honor of the late Bill Robertson's more than 60 years of service as a former board member and the sole board member emeritus of Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

Ms. Watson is truly deserving. She has been involved with Planned Parenthood since she was a 19-year-old junior at the University of Arizona. She served as a volunteer and as assistant clinical director for Planned Parenthood in Tucson, Arizona. She has also served on the boards of directors for Planned Parenthood in San Antonio, Texas as well as Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

Ms. Watson has served actively in the Planned Parenthood of Maryland Speakers Bureau, teaching about contraception in Maryland schools. She is a former chairwoman of the Planned Parenthood of Maryland Education Committee.

Throughout her time as a Board member in Maryland, Ms. Watson has made her position as a volunteer in the Towson Health Center a top priority, advocating on behalf of the Center staff at board meetings. She has worked tirelessly to keep the people who come to Planned Parenthood seeking accurate information and access to preventive care at the center of strategic discussions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today in honoring Ann Watson. She has served as an exemplary volunteer and advocate for reproductive rights—demonstrating an

outstanding commitment to the mission and vision of Planned Parenthood.

TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
200TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION
ACT OF 2007—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 3432, a bill that would authorize the establishment of a federal commission to coordinate activities for the commemoration of the bicentennial anniversary of the U.S. Transatlantic Slave Trade Act.

Next year will mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in the United States. Although the transatlantic slave trade represents a dark aspect of not only U.S. history, but world history, it provides an opportunity to celebrate the progress with human rights, civil rights, and race relations in our great country. In addition to celebrating progress, the anniversary offers an opportunity to educate and remind people all over the world of the history slavery played in making race such a dominant reality in our history and the role of the slave trade.

The establishment of a federal commission to coordinate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade commemoration activities would assist with reminding and informing people of the past and present day implications of slavery in the development of America as a nation.

At the present time, people are rightfully consumed and burdened with issues that are impacting their personal lives, as well as, societal issues including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorism, quality healthcare, education, and crime. Due to this, I believe people would welcome being refreshed by something to celebrate versus something to worry about; especially because African Americans have made and continue to make immeasurable contributions and advances in our great country since the abolishment of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery. Young people need to have an understanding of and develop an appreciation for our country's past, which would hopefully instill pride and hope for tomorrow.

I thank Congressman PAYNE for introducing this bill and encourage my colleagues to support it. I also encourage people all over the world, especially young people to learn about the history of slavery.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT
RELATING TO REUNIFICATION
OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 405, of which I am a cosponsor, which expresses the strong support of the House of Represent-

atives for the implementation of the July 8, 2006, U.N.-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus. As a co-founder and co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I want to thank Representative BILIRAKIS, my fellow co-chair, for introducing the bill and working to bring it to the floor today.

On July 8, 2006, President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed, under the auspices of the United Nations, to a set of principles to begin a process of discussions aimed at ending the division of Cyprus. The agreement calls for a commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions. The agreement also called for the establishment of technical committees and working groups to examine and discuss a variety of issues including those that affect the daily lives of the people.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus, and I hope that passage of H. Res. 405 by the House today will be a positive influence in moving this process forward in preparation for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the unification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BELOIT CIVIC THEATRE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of an organization that has influenced the advancement of cultural opportunities for the people of Beloit, Wisconsin. Originally envisioned as a showcase of local talents, today the Beloit Civic Theatre has grown into a remarkable attraction stimulating growth and support of the arts within the community and surrounding area.

Initially named the Beloit Little Theatre Guild upon its founding in 1932, the organization began its tradition of service with the production of the Whole Town's Talking. The group concluded its first season with another performance and 250 dedicated members. Word of the outstanding organization spread quickly, and the guild membership grew to 1,300 by the following year, the largest of any community theater in the State. In 1948, the name was changed to the Beloit Civic Theatre, as it stands today.

Although the Beloit Civic Theatre was not incorporated as a non-profit organization until 1952, they have given back to the community since their very first season. Today their profits support a scholarship fund to cultivate the talents of graduating high school students pursuing a field within the arts.

Throughout the past 75 years, the Beloit Civic Theatre has undoubtedly gone above and beyond their mission to bring the people of Beloit unique and distinctive performances.

Enjoyed at the Elizabeth Reinholz Theater by a variety of audiences, the presentation of timeless classics, modern masterpieces, and original works has advanced more than the amazing talents of aspiring actors, but developed a desire and love for theater within the Beloit community.

On this 75th anniversary of the Beloit Civic Theatre's founding, I applaud its devoted staff, faithful volunteers, and talented and dedicated performers who have nurtured and supported this indispensable organization of cultural growth and entertainment for the past 75 years. We look forward to 75 more.

ON THE 2007 ANGELS IN ADOPTION
PROGRAM

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on October 4, 2007, I had the great pleasure of seeing one of the finest constituents of the Second District of Kansas honored as an Angel in Adoption. This award was given by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, of which I am proud to be a member. The story of the Second District's Angel in Adoption, Stuart Griffiths, is a story of hard work, commitment, and humility. It is a story that I am proud to share today.

Stuart started working with children during college when he was a wrestling coach. He gave rides to and from practice to a young man living in a group home and decided there was more that he could do to help. He began volunteering at the young man's group home—helping with homework, playing ball, whatever was needed—until he was asked to become the assistant director. After working in public schools in Lawrence, Kansas, he returned to his hometown of Clay Center and became a foster parent. Over the years Stuart has hosted 32 foster children. Eventually he was told by a caseworker, "You ought to become a social worker because you're already doing it so you might as well get paid for it." So Stuart returned to school and earned a degree in social work. He jokes that he made this decision before anyone told him how much social workers earn. All joking aside, he has devoted the last 8 years of his life to working in child protective services.

Part of what makes Stuart's story unique is that he has made a conscious effort to help children with special needs. He told caseworkers he "wanted the kids nobody else wants," and they listened. He was contacted by social workers from surrounding communities to help children who needed extra care and attention. Over the years, he has helped children who were victims of abuse or had behavioral problems grow and mature into successful and talented adults.

Stuart now has five adopted sons, ranging in age from 14 to 19. Another remarkable aspect of his story is that he is a single parent. In addition to his job and responsibilities as a parent, Stuart also runs the football little league in his community and coaches his own team. He is the epitome of a public servant. Despite his tremendous contribution to the community, Stuart is incredibly humble. In his stories he continually talks about the many accomplishments of his sons. When asked about

the incredible commitment he has made, he simply says, "I wanted to take the next step."

I was thrilled to meet with Stuart and his five sons in Washington on Thursday. I know we both hope that this award and Stuart's recognition will raise awareness about the importance of adoption and foster care. Stuart has been able to create a stable, brighter future for his children, who might otherwise have drifted from family to family in the foster care system, never really having someone to call "Dad." For me, Stuart's words have the most resonance—"I just hope this encourages other folks to adopt."

RECOGNIZING MRS. OLA MAE
McFATRIDGE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Ola Mae McFATRIDGE, a long-time member of the district, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Born Ola Mae Kerr outside of Celina, TX, on September 25, 1907, she was raised on a farm where she learned early on the importance of education, family, and hard work. In 1931 she married the late Carl McFATRIDGE and went on to have two children, Bill McFATRIDGE and the late Martha Dobson.

Following graduation in 1926, she taught for 5 years before marrying Carl. While Carl was serving as a marine in the Pacific Theatre in World War II, Ola Mae assumed the role of store manager of the family business. Though she retired from full-time work in 1994 at the age of 87, she continues to be an active and valued member of her community. She is the loving and beloved matriarch of 36 descendants. Among these descendants are educators, ministers, law enforcement and safety personnel, and business professionals.

Ola Mae's life has been marked by an unwavering dedication to family, education, hard work, and faith. This last century has been a remarkable one, and she has borne witness to it all. On behalf of her family, friends, and all those she continues to touch and inspire, I would like to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mrs. Ola Mae McFATRIDGE on this, the centennial of her birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 949 on H. Res. 32 I am not recorded because of flight delays from Michigan to Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 32.

HONORING BOB LARGESS AND THE
FOOTSTEPS IN HISTORY PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Robert Largess who has completed a historic 4-day stage coach journey from the scenic shores of the Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island to beautiful Kelley Square in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Largess has driven an 1800's style horse-drawn stagecoach along the Blackstone River Valley National Corridor to commemorate the third annual Footsteps in History Program. This program is a week-long celebration of the cultural and historic heritage of the Blackstone Valley. Footsteps in History was created by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Long before the railroad and canal boats came to the Blackstone Valley, people used stagecoaches to make the journey between Providence and Worcester. His 4-day journey will be the first such trip in about 180 years and aims to raise public awareness about the Blackstone Valley and its place in history. Mr. Largess's ride has also served to educate our children and our community about the important role that the Blackstone River and the Blackstone Canal have played in the industrialization of the United States. He will end his journey at the starting point of the Canal and he has been at the center of a communitywide effort to restore the section of the canal that is now buried under the streets of Worcester.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor the work of Mr. Largess and members of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for the work they do to help bring alive the rich history of the Blackstone Valley.

RECOGNIZING THE LAKE MURRAY
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the South Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce and, specifically, the Lake Murray Junior Chamber for their leadership and service in our community during this year's Junior Chamber Mission Week.

In 1929, the United States Junior Chamber established Junior Chamber Mission Week, or "Jaycee Week", to celebrate its founding with seven days of public relations opportunities for its member chapters. Each day of the week, they highlight a different basic tenet that the chamber has adopted. These tenets are as follows: a faith in God, the purpose of brotherhood, free enterprise, government laws, human personality, and service to humanity.

For over 70 years, the South Carolina Junior Chamber has been actively involved in our community by devoting time to developing fu-

ture community leaders. Over those seven decades, it has contributed to humanitarian projects such as Jaycee Camp Hope, Family Talk and JAYS. As a former member of the Jaycee-West Columbia Jaycees for over 20 years and as former state legal counsel of the South Carolina Jaycees, I know firsthand of the positive impact of South Carolina Jaycees.

I wish to thank Lake Murray Chapter President Angie Wedekind, South Carolina State President Scott Bryant, the National Junior Chamber President Chris Oldham, and the Junior Chamber International President Scott Greenlee. Their leadership is helping to shape today's young people into successful leaders of tomorrow.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
HERMAN M. MAISEL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Herman M. Maisel, a devoted family man and dedicated community leader.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Mr. Maisel was a standout athlete at Murphy High School in football, basketball, and baseball. After graduating in 1942, he enlisted in the Marines. He served in the Pacific theater until the end of World War II and was cited for his bravery.

After returning home, he attended the University of Alabama using the G.I. Bill and received a degree in education. Once again, he was a standout athlete, named to the all-star teams in intramural football, basketball, and baseball. While in graduate school at the university, he coached both the freshman football and basketball teams.

In 1952, Mr. Maisel was named assistant football coach and head basketball coach at his alma mater, Murphy High School. Under his leadership, the Murphy High School basketball team racked up 91 wins and only 12 losses, winning three city championships and tying for another. The team also won three district titles and the 1956 Alabama State Basketball Championship, a first for a Mobile school. He also coached the Murphy golf team, which won the state championship in 1956.

With a desire to be a better provider for his family, Mr. Maisel entered the real estate business. In 1971, he acquired Staples, Pake & Griffin Real Estate in Mobile, changing the name to Herman Maisel & Company. This company became one of the top 100 shopping center developers in the United States, with holdings in 14 states. Additionally, he was a founding partner in Mobile Greyhound Park.

Mr. Maisel was actively involved in his community, contributing to numerous civic and charitable endeavors. He was a member of the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, serving on its board of directors, and a past president of the Ahavas Chesed Synagogue in Mobile.

There is no doubt—Mr. Herman Maisel's contributions to Mobile and the state of Alabama will be long remembered. He loved life

and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 60 years, Freida Gutlow Maisel; his three children, Kathy M. Bronstein, Elliot B. Maisel, and Ivan B. Maisel; his ten grandchildren; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANGMEISTER

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my former colleague, George Sangmeister, who passed away last weekend. George was a stalwart of Illinois politics for over 30 years and served in this body from 1988–1994. He embodied the hard-working decency of the Midwest and I extend my condolences to his family.

George committed a great deal of his life to public service, beginning with his service in the Army during the Korean War. He graduated from Elmhurst College and the John Marshall Law School, becoming a Will County Magistrate in 1961. He later served as the county's District Attorney and was elected to both the Illinois House and Senate. In 1986, he was tabbed by Adlai Stevenson III to run as his Lieutenant Governor. They lost that race, but George went on two years later to win election to Congress.

George had a warm personality and was a results-oriented politician, looking for consensus wherever he could. He was not concerned about grandstanding, but always seeking out a way to bring people together for the greater good. He led the efforts to create the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, both projects distinct to and emblematic of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, we can all learn from the example of George Sangmeister, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, October 4, 2007, I was absent from the House due to a family illness and therefore missed rollcall votes 939 through 948.

Had I been present for rollcall 939, H.R. 2740, on the motion to recommit the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 940, H.R. 2740, on passage of the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 941, H. Res. 704, on ordering the previous question providing for the consideration of H.R. 3246, the

Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 942, H. Res. 704, on agreeing to the resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 943, H. Res. 703, on ordering the previous question providing for the consideration of H.R. 3648, Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 944, H. Res. 703, on agreeing to the resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3648, the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 945, H.R. 3246, on the motion to recommit the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 946, H.R. 3246, on passage of the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 947, H.R. 3648, on the motion to recommit the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 948, H.R. 3648, on passage of the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

EXPANDING STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today strong support of my resolution—H. Res. 651—which recognizes the expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil. This resolution also commends Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs and recognizes the importance of the March 9, 2007 United States—Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation.

For years, Brazil has flown below the radar in the United States. We never paid much attention to what was happening in the largest country in South America. But I believe that we are reaching the end of this period of ignorance and neglect and that we, in America, are finally waking up not only to Brazil's importance, but also to how natural this relationship should be.

Brazil occupies almost half of the continent of South America and is the fifth most populous country in the world. Its economy is the eleventh largest in the world, the largest in Latin America, and one of the largest in the developing world. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called Brazil "the regional leader and our global partner." These are words we reserve for only a few countries—those where partnership is truly advantageous for both of us.

Brazil is also the right country with which to cooperate on alternative energy sources.

Brazil and the United States are by far the world's largest ethanol producers. In 2006, the two countries together produced 69 percent of ethanol in the world. And Brazil has become a global leader on alternative energy. By the end of 2006, 80 percent of new car sales in Brazil were flex-fuel, meaning they can run on a mixture of ethanol and gasoline.

On March 9th, the U.S. and Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels in the Western Hemisphere. Our bilateral partnership is establishing both countries as leaders in the energy field in the hemisphere. I am particularly pleased by joint U.S.-Brazilian efforts to provide technical assistance to build biofuels industries in third countries, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador and St. Kitts and Nevis. This resolution commends these efforts and also encourages U.S. and Brazilian officials to quickly move to a second wave of countries to receive similar technical assistance.

Many argue that for too long, the U.S. has focused its agenda in the hemisphere on "trade and drugs" at the exclusion of other elements. The deepening of our energy cooperation with our friends in the hemisphere—particularly Brazil—is helping us to develop a positive agenda that I hope will continue to grow in the coming years.

I am also pleased to announce today that I will be leading a bipartisan congressional delegation to Brazil on November 25th and I encourage my colleagues to join me on this trip.

I want to close by noting that there is a cynical, old adage about Brazil that says, "Brazil is the land of the future, and always will be." Brazil's leadership at home, in the Americas and throughout the world is proving this statement to be false. I truly believe that Brazil's time has come. As Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chairman, I look forward to continuing to focus intensively on Brazil—a vital partner and friend.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 651.

CHARLES H. HENDRIX POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of renaming the Cantonment Post Office in Cantonment, FL, the Charles H. Hendrix Post Office. It is fitting that we rename this post office after Mr. Hendrix as he retired from the U.S. Postal Service as Postmaster of the Cantonment Post Office with 37 years of service.

Charles Harold Hendrix was a man of service. He dedicated his life to the Lord, his family, and his community. Born and reared in Molino, FL, where he met his wife of 55 years, Barbara; they had three children: Chuck, Rusty, and Cheryl.

He was a member of Highland Baptist Church, where he served as the church treasurer, chairman of the board of deacons, and as a Sunday school superintendent. Charles Barton, the current Sunday school superintendent, said that Mr. Hendrix "had moral

values that were exceptionally great, and that he was always willing to help everybody anytime, any way that he could." This sentiment was not only found around Highland Baptist Church.

Charles Hendrix was a charter member of the Molino Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as fire chief, assistant fire chief, and secretary of the department's board of directors. Former fire chief Harry Nowlin was inspired by Charles: "I've never met a finer gentleman in all my life."

Mr. Hendrix was also a member of the Cantonment Rotary Club for 44 years. He served one term as president and was an active member of the Club Service Committee. He was presented the prestigious Paul Harris Award, and in 2003, he received the club's "Gator Estes Service Above Self Award."

Mr. Hendrix went to be with the Lord last October at the early age of 75. Madam Speaker, I, along with the residents of Northwest Florida, can think of no better way to honor this highly respected, admirable man than to dedicate the Cantonment Post Office in his name.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, October 9, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 32 and H.R. 400.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 949 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor killings," and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral and honorable society, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 950 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. GUILLERMO LINARES, PhD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor the outstanding achievements of the 35 million Hispanic Americans in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

One of those 35 million Hispanic Americans is Dr. Guillermo Linares, whom I am honored to acknowledge for all his wonderful contributions and remarkable leadership in public service. Dr. Linares, who brings a long record of distinguished public service, has blazed an inspiring path so that future generations of Hispanic Americans can grasp the same opportunities to develop into tomorrow's leaders.

Dr. Guillermo Linares has the historic distinction of being the first Dominican elected to

public office in the United States. He served from 1991 to 2001 in the New York City Council, where he advocated for quality education, vital health services, and affordable housing.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Linares has remained committed to improving public education and championing immigrant issues. His advocacy started in Washington Heights, where he worked as a school teacher. Witnessing the need for active involvement, he ran for membership of the local school board and served there for three terms. In the 1980s, Dr. Linares and others were responsible for the building of desperately needed public schools for the growing immigrant community in Washington Heights.

Dr. Linares' work has garnered him city-wide and national respect. In 1998, the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus of the NYC Council elected then-Council Member Linares as its copresident. Dr. Linares was tapped in 1995 to serve in a national capacity as a member of the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. President William Clinton appointed him in 1999 as chair of this initiative.

He was also a part of a movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s to establish key institutions that continue to serve Dominican and Latino populations. With other activists and leaders, Dr. Linares helped to establish the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, the Puerto Rican/Latino Education Round Table and the Parents Coalition for Education in New York City. Dr. Linares was instrumental in the founding of the Dominican Studies Institute at City College, the Audubon Partnership for Economic Development and the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. He also served for six years as a board member of the National Council of "La Raza." He currently is the co-chair of "Encuentro 2000 and Beyond" a national Latino leadership group.

In his current role as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs for the City of New York, Dr. Linares works to strengthen bridges between city government and immigrant communities. He—who grew up dirt poor in a dirt-floored hut in the Dominican Republic—shares the experiences and aspirations of immigrant New Yorkers. Having left his native Dominican Republic to arrive to the City of New York at age 15 in 1966, knowing not a word of English, drove a taxi for long hours to support his family. At the same time, he pursued a higher education so that he could advance.

Dr. Linares received a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Science degree from City College and a professional diploma in administration and supervision from Fordham University. He recently achieved his doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Linares' wife, Evelyn, is a dedicated public school principal. They are proud parents of two children, Guillermo Linares Jr. and Mayra Linares, who currently serves as the Democratic District Leader of Part A of the 72nd District of the New York State Assembly. His family has been critical to his accomplishments as a community activist, an elected official and an academic.

At a time when so many question the role and value of immigrants in today's society, it is essential to remember the achievements of remarkable public servants such as Dr. Guillermo Linares. Let us all remember that immi-

grant dreams and values—Hispanic dreams and values—are no different than the dreams and values that we all wish for our families and our Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, we live in the Information Age, but health care, one of the most information-intensive segments of our economy remains mired in a pen-and-paper past. We can buy airline tickets online, we can check our bank accounts from anywhere in the world, and we send pictures of new babies and grandchildren to friends and family via e-mail or instant messages. The health care industry, however, remains dangerously disconnected. Patients' medical histories are largely disaggregated among the various physicians who have treated them, and are often inaccessible to a new doctor or even to the patients themselves.

Such an inefficient health care information system creates unnecessary risks and costs. It's time to look at health care in a new way, focusing on overall health and not simply disease. We need to move toward a model of integrated care by providing ways for a patient's physicians to coordinate their care, and promote the modernization of our nation's health care system.

Health information technology (HIT) promises to revolutionize the health care delivery system and have a powerful effect on enhancing patient safety, reducing medical errors, improving the quality of care, and reducing health care costs. The deployment of HIT and the adoption of important patient tools such as electronic health records (EHRs) have been slow and have not kept pace with the advances of technology in nearly every other aspect of our lives.

To accelerate the adoption of HIT and create market conditions and incentives which will encourage investment in this critical technology, I'm introducing today the Promotion of Health Information Technology Act. This legislation builds on the excellent work of Senators KENNEDY and ENZI and will promote HIT in the federal government and throughout the health care sector.

Any meaningful HIT legislation must establish a process for the rapid formulation and implementation of standards to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health data and create incentives to ensure that these technologies are actually adopted. The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act establishes a streamlined process for the adoption of HIT interoperability standards and requires the federal government to abide by the standards it sets.

The legislation establishes a permanent position within HHS with broad responsibility to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health information and coordination of the government's own health IT activities and procurement. It also creates a permanent public-private advisory body to recommend or endorse appropriate HIT interoperability standards with

definitive timeframes for adoption and updates. Broadly accepted interoperability standards are vital to the development of IT systems that can communicate and share information.

Under my legislation all federal HIT procurement must comply with the standards endorsed by the interoperability standards body. In addition, all agencies that collect health data electronically for purposes of quality reporting, health surveillance and other purposes must comply with endorsed standards. For HIT to gain a foothold in the health care marketplace, it is essential for the federal government to utilize its purchasing power in healthcare to ensure the United States is rapidly adopting these innovative technologies.

The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act also provides important protections for patients and their sensitive medical information. The bill establishes an ongoing system for certification of Electronic Health Records products by third-party entities and guarantees that individuals will have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of their EHRs and amend any inaccurate or fraudulent information. It also clarifies that operators of health information electronic databases like Google Health, Revolution Health, and WebMD are deemed to be covered entities under HIPAA. The use of non-identifiable health data for public health and research purposes is permitted with appropriate patient approval.

The bill establishes a process for the development of reports by "Health Quality Organizations" on federal healthcare data to advance healthcare research, enhance consumer education and awareness, and provide the public with reports on national, regional, and provider- and supplier-specific performance.

Finally, to provide resources for the adoption of HIT nationwide the Promotion of Health Information Technology Act authorizes funding for grant programs to assist state and local governments adopt HIT and promote adoption within their states. It also establishes a grant program for regional health information exchanges and a competitive grant program for private sector healthcare providers, with a preference for providers that use the "Medical Home" patient care model, which allows patients to have a single point of care and a medical provider to coordinate care through the use of HIT. The legislation also provides incentives for utilizing broadband to deliver HIT in underserved areas and funding of academic curricula to train qualified Health IT professionals.

Madam Speaker, the power of HIT to transform American health care is clear, but without aggressive action by the Congress to promote and adopt HIT, we will not see the benefits of these innovative technologies for years to come. The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act will ensure that the federal government foster the development and implementation of advanced Health IT networks and technologies in our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, due to inclement weather I missed the following votes

on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. I would have voted as follows:

(1) "Yea" on H. Res. 32—Denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society.

(2) "Yea" on H.R. 400—War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE GROVE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Religious Society of Friends upon the 100th anniversary of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends in Pasadena, California.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends was founded in 1907 by a group of twenty Eastern Quakers who had moved to Pasadena. Quakers have played leading roles in working for peace and an end to war, promoting racial and gender equality, and supporting environmental and other social justice causes. After World War I, the Meeting members supported the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which engaged in post war relief efforts in Western Europe and Russia, and also helped establish AFSC's Pacific Coast branch.

During World War II, the Meeting house served as a hostel for Japanese-Americans being sent to internment camps, and aid was sent to those already interned. The Meeting members provided hospitality and financial support to area conscientious objectors and their families, and after the end of the war, hosted families displaced by the war and its aftermath.

Meeting members have frequently led the way in civil rights and social justice movements. Meeting members took part in efforts to desegregate the Pasadena school system, participated in freedom rides in the South and attended the Selma, Alabama protests.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends founded educational institutions that provide a nurturing educational environment for children. Pacific Ackworth Friends School (1942) and Pacific Oaks School (1945) were established by Meeting parents. In 1961, Mara Moser, an Orange Grove Friends member, established Mothers' Club to support families of men in prison. Mothers' Club later evolved into a child development and family center serving low-income families.

Members of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends are active participants in the community. Meeting members routinely provide dinner for the homeless at Union Station in Pasadena, participate in many prison visitation programs and allow the Meeting house to be used by local groups for activities such as a tutoring program for elementary school children.

It is my pleasure to honor the Orange Grove Friends Meeting of Pasadena on its 100th an-

niversary of dedicated service to the community. I ask all Members to join me in commending their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, today I offer my best wishes and congratulations to the people of Taiwan in recognition of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

During the late 1980s and early 1990s Taiwan witnessed a peaceful transition of political power to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law. I commend the people of Taiwan for building a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous island.

For over 50 years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship, which has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage. I believe that the United States should remain committed to enhancing stability, security, and prosperity in Taiwan and across the Taiwan Strait.

In celebration of this Double Tenth National Day, it is my hope that the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China can maintain dialogue and work together to promote enduring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in the Taiwan Strait.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, because my airline flight was delayed I was not able to be present for two votes on October 9th. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 949—passage of H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 950—passage of H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007—I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING COBB COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I am able to recognize and honor a number of dedicated and selfless public servants from Cobb County, Georgia

today. The Cobb County Chamber of Commerce recently presented two awards for notable devotion to public safety and awareness. The presentation of these awards marked the beginning of Public Safety Awareness Week, a celebration of the men and women who work every day throughout Cobb County to keep our communities safe and secure.

On October 1, 2007, the Cobb Chamber Public Safety Employee of the Year Award was presented to Mr. James Arrowood, the Director of Public Safety for Cobb County Schools. This award is a notable highlight in a distinguished 35-year career in public safety for Mr. Arrowood. Each day Cobb County parents place their trust in Director Arrowood, as he ensures a safe learning environment for all Cobb students. I applaud Mr. Arrowood on this exceptional honor and all he does for our community.

Also recognized for their pursuit of public safety, the Cobb Chamber Award of Merit was presented to the Wildland Fire Response Team of the Marietta Fire Department. The Team courageously traveled to fire-ravaged South Georgia in May of 2007 to assist in a vital fight to extinguish the out-of-control blazes. When Georgians needed help the most, the Marietta Wildland Fire Response Team responded as true heroes would. Sacrificing their safety to ensure the survival of an endangered area of the State, the Team epitomizes strength and character of our public safety professionals.

The countless hard working men and women of public safety too often go unnoticed. It is necessary and responsible that we honor them this way, and I commend the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce for their support of this initiative. Public Safety Awareness Week serves as an important reminder that our safety is not assured without the hard work of public safety professionals and volunteers.

Madam Speaker, I join with the House of Representatives today in declaring a sincere appreciation for these honorable award winners and dedicated public servants. Congratulations, Director Arrowood and the Marietta Wildland Fire Response Team.

COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION
OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE
TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3432, an excellent bill that commemorates the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

This year marks a very important anniversary in history—the 200th anniversary of the enactment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act. It was in 1807 when then President Thomas Jefferson signed into law this vital Act. Nearly 200 years prior, in 1619, twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia aboard a Dutch ship. This was the beginning in America of the atrocity of slavery which unfortunately lasted for more than 2 centuries.

While America was in deep turmoil over the morality of slavery, William Wilberforce, a

Member of the U.K. Parliament, led the campaign to abolish the transatlantic slave trade in Britain. This great man was a statesman, an avowed and practicing Christian, and a champion of the underprivileged.

Early on, Wilberforce wrestled with whether he should pursue a calling from God or serve as a driving force in the House of Commons. He successfully accomplished both. Wilberforce was an example of faith in action, modeling that we do not have to abandon our values to be effective in our jobs—whether as a business owner, nurse, mechanic, working mom or Member of Congress.

We must stand up for our beliefs and fight passionately for our causes. We must not betray our values or our faith, and never cease to help those in need. On the 200th anniversary of the 1807 abolition of the U.K. and U.S. slave trade, we should reflect on the greatness of those who stood up for what was right and true—even though it was not popular.

It wasn't until 1865 that slavery in the United States was abolished through the passing of the Thirteenth Amendment. Then President, Abraham Lincoln, helped push the bill through Congress. Earlier in his presidency, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves. He believed this was “the central act of my administration, and the great event of the nineteenth century.”

While slavery ended, discrimination continued. It is my hope that we will remember the struggles of this great Nation and continue our efforts to stand for what is right. We can build momentum and engage communities to find new ways to improve our culture.

I am honored each day to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and stand faithfully for what is right. It is a privilege to cast my vote in favor of a bill that honors a great moment in our history.

I look forward to today's passage of H.R. 3432.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF IMPROVING THE HIGH
SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE OF
FOSTER YOUTH

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution to recognize the importance of improving the high school graduation rate of foster youth. I was accompanied by my colleagues JIM McDERMOTT, the Chairman of the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee on which I serve as ranking Republican, PHIL ENGLISH, and JOHN LEWIS.

A recent series of hearings in the subcommittee reflected on the fact that school stability and high school completion are strongly associated with better outcomes for young people making the transition to adulthood. We know that connecting kids with their schools means strengthening the circle of friends, teachers, coaches, and other mentors that can help them become more independent and develop the habits and skills needed to succeed for life on their own.

Over 20,000 youth “age out” of the Nation's foster care system each year. Among many

serious challenges, these young people have lower high school graduation rates, higher rates of homelessness, and a greater chance of becoming incarcerated than other youth their age. Too many youth who age out of foster care stumble and fall on their way to adulthood. Some never recover. Others find their way only through extraordinary personal effort, the involvement of dedicated relatives and other adults, a little luck, or all of the above.

We should be doing everything we can to increase high school completion rates in general. And for kids in foster care, it is especially important for them to stay connected to their school and complete high school. Such action will give former foster youth a solid start on their way to a successful adulthood. That is in everyone's interest.

HONORING THE SAFETY EXCELLENCE OF SMURFIT-STONE CONTAINER CORPORATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding effort of Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation paper mill in Hodge, Louisiana, under the leadership of General Manager Roger P. Hagan, in fulfilling its responsibility as a Good Corporate Citizen.

As of September 14, 2007, The Hodge branch of Smurfit-Stone became the first mill in the company's history to successfully reach two million hours of operation without an accident, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. For any corporation, this is an accomplishment, and I am proud to honor the men and women of Smurfit-Stone who strive to maintain high standards in the workplace and make safety a top priority.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roger P. Hagan and Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation for promoting a safe environment in the work place and for putting employee safety first.

90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
ROTARY CLUB OF LONG BEACH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, the Long Beach Rotary is celebrating 90 years of service to the community on Wednesday, October 10, 2007. In honor of this auspicious occasion, the Long Beach Rotary partnered with the City of Long Beach and the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to plant 90 trees in one day at various parks around the City.

The 90th Anniversary Celebration and tree planting at Rotary Centennial Park will be the culmination of this year's endeavors. Rotary Centennial Park, which was created by the Long Beach Rotary in anticipation of its century of service, was created in a former redline right-of-way. The site is now a clean, green,

and safe place for youth to play. The park opened to the public on May 21, 2005 and features a planet walk by artist Philip Smith and a stainless steel sundial sculpture by artist Patrick Vogel. The 1.2 acre park is a welcoming place for families to gather in a neighborhood short on park space.

The Long Beach Rotary is one of the largest Rotary Clubs in Southern California. Comprised of approximately 375 business and professional leaders that put "Service above Self," the Rotary Club is known the world over. Rotary Club International is comprised of more than 1,200,000 members in 31,000 clubs in 166 countries.

The Long Beach Rotary has two remarkable charitable organizations. The Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation and The Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation both are 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations.

The Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation offers scholarships to Long Beach area students at Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. Currently, the foundation oversees over \$6 million. In 2006 the foundation awarded over 250 scholarships totaling nearly \$300,000.

The Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation supports philanthropic endeavors in the Long Beach area. Past projects include Rotary Centennial Park, Camp Enterprise, and Rotary Reads, as well as grants to Long Beach area charities and programs designed for youth and education. Groups such as the Boys and Girls Club, LB Day Nursery, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Long Beach Unified School District, and the Carpenter Center have all benefited from the foundation, which gave over \$80,000 in 2005–2006.

The Long Beach Rotary has definitely kept to its founding principles of providing humanitarian service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and helping to build goodwill and peace in the world—one tree, one student, and one park at a time.

Happy Anniversary. May the next 90 years bring as much success as the past 90 years.

HONORING PHILLIP GREENWELL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillip Greenwell, a remarkable man with a long history of service to his country and to Kentucky. Mr. Greenwell, a lifelong resident of Nelson County, has been an active member of American Legion Post 121 in Bardstown, KY, for nearly 60 years.

Phillip Greenwell was drafted into the Army during World War II and served for 2 years as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Mr. Greenwell has made it a personal priority to serve his fellow veterans through his work with American Legion Post 121. His leadership positions include post commander, post vice commander, district commander, district vice commander, district service officer, and district chaplain. He has also served on the Kentucky American Legion State Finance Committee and State Internal Affairs Committee.

Though Mr. Greenwell's health now requires him to stay at home, he still stays active in

American Legion activities by phone and continues to assist with veterans casework. In addition to his American Legion service, he has served on the Kentucky Boy's State Committee and was a volunteer for the Red Cross for over 25 years.

It is my privilege to honor Phillip Greenwell today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to our country and his tireless efforts on behalf of American Legion Post 121 and his fellow veterans. Mr. Greenwell has made a significant difference to his "Old Kentucky Home."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL GRAHAM

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Graham of Henderson, Nevada who passed away on September 23, 2007.

Michael was born in McMinnville, Oregon, on October 23, 1946. After he earned his bachelors degree from San Francisco State University and fulfilled his graduate studies in the areas of finance and management, he became involved with private and non-profit finance and management careers. His career reached its culmination when he was named Deputy State Director of the Nevada Small Business Development Center in 2000. In this role, he directed the activities of the Business Environmental Program in Nevada as well as five Nevada Small Business Development Centers in Southern Nevada. He managed nearly 50 staff around the State providing business advice, resources and training.

Prior to taking the Deputy Director position in Henderson, Michael lived and served the community of Reno, Nevada, as an owner of several small businesses and eventually became the Director of Development for the University of Nevada, Reno College of Business Administration. He was awarded for his dedication to the community as the recipient of the prestigious "Philanthropic Executive of the Year" Award for northern Nevada in 2000.

In 1976 Michael joined the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, and was the president of two different chapters. Mr. Graham was also an active member of several boards and committees including the UCCSN's Division of Continuing Education's Non-Profit Management Board, President of Arizona Consulting Group, and is a proud member of the Prospectors Club. Moreover, he served on the city of Reno's Redevelopment Advisory Board and its Financial Board. Michael has also taught Business Management, Finance and Fund Raising on various college campuses.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Michael Graham who was and remains well known and respected community member. His dedication and service to the community should be applauded and admired by all. He was a pillar of the community and will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, due to travel conflicts beyond my control, I was unable to be back in Washington on October 9, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 949 on passage of H. Res. 32. I also missed rollcall vote No. 950 on passage of H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 400.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER AARON WEAVER POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that today we can honor a true American hero, Aaron Weaver of Inverness, Florida. Weaver is yet another example of the dedication of many men and women serving in our military today.

Weaver has a great family history of service and I am proud to work with his uncle, Naval Academy graduate and veteran Bill Schmidt, on behalf of the veterans in the fifth district of New Jersey. I know that Bill will miss him dearly but I also know that he is proud of his courageous nephew.

Weaver served in Mogadishu with the rangers who were immortalized by the movie *Black Hawk Down*. These brave Americans held out against superior numbers of armed rebels and conducted their mission in Somalia with dedication and dignity. For his actions in Somalia he was awarded a Bronze Star.

When Warrant Officer Weaver was diagnosed with his illness he chose to fight both cancer and the forces of Saddam Hussein. While he could have chosen a medical discharge he instead pressed to be with his comrades defending our Nation. If there were American soldiers defending freedom on foreign shores then Weaver wanted to be with them.

It's only proper that we should honor this hero with a lasting memorial in his community. I hope that his courage and sacrifice will not be forgotten and that he can serve as an inspiration to those who are serving our Nation now in the field of battle.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID K. SHIPLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Shipler, a former national and international reporter, former diplomatic correspondent, and author, as he speaks at Case Western Reserve University, my alma mater, on his latest book, "The Working Poor: Invisible in America."

In his writing, Mr. Shieler brings the issue of poverty in America front-and-center. He spent years interviewing and building lasting relationships with people falling between the cracks, despite their steady work, many of whom live in the Cleveland area. The people he describes make incredible sacrifices and still are unable, in many cases, to provide for their basic needs and those of their family, such as food, health care, child care, transportation, sick days, and adequate time with their families.

He identifies acts of kindness of friends and employers who assist those not able to meet these needs through work as their saving grace, but he also discusses these interactions as the exception. There are many, many more working people in constant struggle without the help they need from their employers or their Government.

In all of his works, Mr. Shieler describes and explains real social and personal conflicts while emphasizing the need for principles of peace and understanding as the way forward.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring David Shieler for his distinguished and passionate career of spreading public awareness of crucial issues of inhumanity and injustice. His work has undoubtedly led many towards a greater awareness and push for social change.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEL
JOSEPH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mel Joseph as he receives the March of Dimes 2007 "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year" award.

Mr. Joseph is currently the General Manager for Kem-Tee & Associates in Macomb County. He worked to expand the company, which today covers over 21 counties, and has become one of the largest surveying and engineering businesses in southeast Michigan.

Combining his love of sports and work experiences, Mr. Joseph is deeply involved in a variety of community and professional organizations. He is an active member of the Michigan Mortgage Lender's Association, Michigan Mortgage Bankers Association, Women's Council of Realtors, Commercial Real Estate Women of Detroit, National Association of Mortgage Brokers, Detroit Association of Realtors, Western Wayne & Oakland Consolidated Association of Realtors, North Oakland County Board of Realtors, Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors and Downriver Association of Realtors.

He has served as chairperson for the Continental Amateur Baseball Association, a board member for the Macomb Community College Surveying Advisory Board, and a member of the Luxury Suite Advisory Committee for the Detroit Tigers.

Mel Joseph was born and raised in the lower east side of Detroit. He attended St. Martin's school where he played basketball and was captain of the football team. He worked his way through college at his father's trucking business, and earned his bachelor's degree in communication from Wayne State University.

After graduation, Mr. Joseph went to work for Phillip Morris U.S.A. as a sales and marketing representative and advanced through the company to Divisional Sales Manager for the State of Illinois. He left Phillip Morris to pursue his love of sports and became the executive vice president of Professional Sports Representatives for Professional Management and Consultants.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mel Joseph for his commitment to excellence, as well as his professional and personal devotion to his community.

HONORING INSIGHT ENTERPRISES,
INC. PENINSULA CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Insight Enterprises, Inc. Peninsula Center for Independent Living of Hampton, Virginia. This year marks its 20th year of service to individuals with disabilities on the Virginia peninsula.

For 20 years, the Peninsula Center for Independent Living's philosophy has been that individuals with disabilities should play a major role in deciding their future. As a coalition of professionals working in the fields of education, rehabilitation and community services, the Peninsula Center has been instrumental in allowing persons with disabilities to empower themselves to truly live independent lives.

Madam Speaker, the Peninsula Center for Independent Living provides an invaluable service to thousands. The Peninsula Center works to ensure that individuals with disabilities who need housing, whether public or private, can locate housing that is accessible and suitable to their needs. The Peninsula Center has also provided assistance in resolving complaints in the areas of housing, education, employment and community programs. Other core services provided by the Peninsula Center include peer counseling, and independent skills training. The Peninsula Center also provides community outreach, including disability awareness, technical assistance regarding accessibility and legal issues, and general disability related information.

Insight Enterprises was founded by Ralph W. Shelman of Hampton, who still serves as its executive director. I have had the privilege of working with Ralph on a variety of issues affecting individuals with disabilities both here in the U.S. House of Representatives and during my service in the Virginia General Assembly. Ralph served as an influential member of the coalition that helped enact the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Commonwealth of Virginia knows no better advocate for persons with disabilities than Ralph. The Virginia General Assembly even passed a joint resolution commending Ralph for his work for individuals with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Insight Enterprises, Inc. Peninsula Center for Independent Living, its executive director, Ralph Shelman, and their very professional and caring staff on their 20 years of service to the people of the Virginia peninsula. I com-

mend the officers, staff and board members of the Peninsula Center for all that they have done and will continue to do to better the lives of countless individuals, and I wish them many more years of service to the people of the Virginia peninsula.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
PAUL E. BEBOUT ON HIS INDUC-
TION TO THE OHIO VETERANS
HALL OF FAME

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Paul E. Bebout has been a wonderful father to seven children and made time to coach little league, be a boy scout leader and serve as a school board member; and

Whereas, Mr. Bebout is a Mason and Shriner, where he serves as the local project chairman and has helped raise thousands of dollars for Crippled Children's Hospitals; and

Whereas, he is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans and American Legion; and

Whereas, Mr. Bebout was named Legionnaire of the Year 2002/2003; and

Whereas, Mr. Bebout contributes to the Church Christmas programs; and

Whereas, he assisted to raise funds for scholarships for the local high school; and

Whereas, Mr. Bebout belongs to the Military Order of the Purple Heart Post #625; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Paul E. Bebout for his contributions to his community and country. Congratulations to Paul E. Bebout on his induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

CONTINUED PROHIBITION OF
INTERNET GAMBLING

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, last year, I cosponsored legislation with Congressman BOB GOODLATTE to help stop the widespread growth of gambling over the internet. Though Federal law already prohibits gambling over telephone wires, the passage of this legislation was necessary to maintain the original intent of the law while also bringing it up to speed with the explosion of current and future technology. However, this update of the law made clear that it would only affect interstate commerce, respecting the rights of states by leaving to them the decision whether and how to regulate gambling within their own borders. New legislation before the Financial Services Committee attempts to undo all of this previous work, instead granting the federal government the expansive and exclusive right to regulate all online gambling. This new legislation would represent the first time in history that the Federal Government would be given power to issue gambling licenses, and it

marks a significant shift away from allowing states to determine for themselves what type of policy is best. Proponents of this legislation state that the bill offers states the right to “opt out” of this regulation, but the truth is that the states already have the right to determine their own policy towards gambling without any broader federal regulation that threatens to undermine their control over licensing standards and enforcement actions.

CELEBRATING 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
REV. THEODORE M. HESBURGH,
C.S.C.

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise as a proud alumnus of the University of Notre Dame law school and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 687, recognizing Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., for his contributions to the civil rights movement in the United States, his tireless work to reduce the threat of nuclear conflict, and his efforts to secure the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

As president of Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh worked to bring the university to the forefront of American institutions of higher education. Over the 35 years that he served as president, the university's enrollment, degrees awarded and the size of the faculty all greatly increased. Additionally, under Father Hesburgh's tenure, women were first admitted to the undergraduate program in 1972.

Father Hesburgh is known as one of the 20th century's most influential figures in higher education. He served on many commissions and study groups, including serving as chairman of the International Federation of Catholic Universities from 1963 to 1970. In this capacity, he led a movement to redefine the nature and mission of the contemporary Catholic university, drawing from his experiences in American Catholic universities.

Father Hesburgh's accomplishments, however, are not limited to higher education. Throughout his distinguished career, Father Hesburgh has devoted himself to the cause of justice and human rights throughout the world. He has held 16 Presidential appointments for 10 presidents—President Eisenhower through the current President Bush. In these positions, Father Hesburgh was involved in shaping policy on major social issues including civil rights, peaceful uses of atomic energy, campus unrest and treatment of Vietnam offenders.

Furthermore, Father Hesburgh served four Popes, three as permanent Vatican City representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna from 1956 to 1970. He was a charter member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, created in 1957, and he chaired the Commission from 1969 to 1972. In 1971, he joined the board of the Overseas Development Council, a private organization supporting interests of the underdeveloped world, and chaired it until 1982. During the 1980s he was involved in a private initiative that sought to unite scientists and religious leaders in condemning nuclear weapons. In 1982, he helped organize a meeting in Vatican City of 58 sci-

entists who called for the elimination of nuclear weapons and then brought together six spiritual leaders who endorsed this view.

In recognition of his many efforts in America and throughout the world, Father Hesburgh was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2000 and the Medal of Freedom in 1964, the Nation's highest civilian honor. His service to his country is an inspiration to all and it has been my honor to know him.

Father Hesburgh once said, “My basic principle is that you don't make decisions because they are easy . . . you make them because they're right.” He has certainly lived his life by those words and it is an honor to be recognizing today the outstanding life of this great man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, October 10, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 959—“yea”; rollcall No. 960—“nay.”

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DANIEL WIGGINS, SR., ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Daniel Wiggins, Sr., has served during three war periods; and

Whereas, he is a Life Member and Past Commander of American Legion Post 84 and a Life Member of V.F.W. Post 2901 where he served as Jr. and Sr. Commander; and

Whereas, Mr. Wiggins is a charter and life member of AMVETS Post 70 and served as Commander for four terms; and

Whereas, he served as the Guernsey County Veterans Service Officer for 21 years; and

Whereas, Daniel Wiggins, Sr., is a member and President of the Guernsey County Veterans Service Commission for the past 16 years and a former member of the GOVA Advisory Board; and

Whereas, he is a member and immediate past President of the Ohio State Association of the Veterans service Commissioners; and

Whereas, he is the past president of the DAV National Commanders and Adjuncts Association and he is a volunteer DAV van driver; and

Whereas, Mr. Wiggins is the past President of the Veterans Association of State Commanders and Adjuncts for Ohio; and

Whereas, Mr. Wiggins has been appointed to Congressman Space's Veterans Advisory Council; now, therefore, be it

Resolved That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Daniel Wiggins, Sr., for his contributions to his community and

country. Congratulations to Daniel Wiggins, Sr., on his induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

IN HONOR OF DAVID AND CAROL BURGESS LACKLAND AND THEIR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THE ARTS AND EDUCATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two generous patrons of the arts and of education, David and Carol Burgess Lackland, whose service to the communities of northwest New Jersey is nearly unparalleled.

As a 1954 graduate of Centenary College, the only 4-year college in northwest New Jersey, Carol has long been a strong supporter of her alma mater. Her husband, David, also serves as a trustee for the college. Tomorrow, thanks to their extraordinary support, Centenary will break ground on the new David and Carol Lackland Center, which will serve as a hub for cultural events, education, and activities not only for the college but for the region.

The 68,000-square-foot performing arts center will include a 500-seat state-of-the-arts theater, a dance studio, a blackbox performance space, and more. The center will include classroom space where students will learn about the latest techniques and technologies available for communications and performing arts from backstage as well.

Already, Centenary offers some of the most expansive cultural opportunities in the region. The Centenary Performing Arts Guild, which has been around for about two decades and is the only Actors' Equity theater in the region—presents more than 130 performances a year. With this new facility, the region will have even greater access to high-quality performing arts programming, and I commend David and Carol Burgess Lackland for their contribution to the college community and the surrounding area.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BRING BACK THE 70'S STREET CLUB

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bring Back the 70's Street Club (BB70), a community improvement organization, located in Cleveland, Ohio.

The story of BB70's inception is an inspiring one. Concerned Cleveland residents, on March 10, 2004, decided to gather and discuss their vision for a safer, more secure, and more beautiful Cleveland. Since its first event, the “Spring Clean Up,” the social entrepreneurs who founded BB70 have demonstrated an admirable commitment to northeast Ohio. BB70 accomplishments include instituting a community gardening project, creating a drug-free zone, posting security cameras and surveillance equipment, demolishing

burned buildings, hosting an out of school bash, and starting a mural youth project.

A multitude of organizations and residents, through BB70, continue to work towards developing the Cleveland community and improving civic engagement. Local merchants, banks, companies, schools, law enforcement officers, and other organizations have welcomed and aided the BB70 cause as their success is dependent on BB70's mission.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the great accomplishments of the Bring Back the 70's Street Club in its mission to improve their communities for current and future Cleveland residents.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BARBARA
ROSSMANN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Barbara Rossmann as she receives the 2007 "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year" award from the March of Dimes.

This award goes to the heart of what Barbara Rossmann means to health care in southeast Michigan. She is a leader and visionary in the field of health care. Her commitment to building relationships and partnerships, as well as her determination to create a superior environment for patients and families, has led to numerous advancements in our local health care system.

Barbara Rossmann joined St. Joseph's Healthcare in 1999 as executive vice president and chief operating officer. She was appointed president and chief executive officer in 2004. Since assuming this role, Barbara Rossmann has led the implementation of a \$30 million expansion project at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township, as well as a multi-million dollar investment in integrated computer systems. With these systems and the implementation of evidence-based processes, Henry Ford Macomb Hospital is providing patients and physicians with the nation's most advanced care and safety environment through an electronic medical record.

In July 2007, Ms. Rossmann helped lead the St. Joseph's Healthcare transition from joint ownership by Trinity Health and Henry Ford Health System to full ownership by Henry Ford Health System. With this change, Ms. Rossmann was named president and CEO of Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals, which encompasses the former St. Joseph's Healthcare as well as the former Henry Ford Bi-County Hospital, now Henry Ford Macomb Hospital—Warren Campus.

Her commitment to the southeast Michigan region extends beyond her work through Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals. She is a board member of the Sterling Heights Chamber and Macomb Community Bank. She serves on Macomb County's County Health Plan Board and as committee co-chair of Focus, Macomb's Education & Workforce Development Committee. A long-time supporter of the American Heart Association, she serves on the leadership committees for the American Heart Walk and the Go Red for Women initiative.

Madam Speaker, it has been my pleasure to work alongside Barbara on issues relating to

health care and as varied as higher education and local transportation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Barbara Rossmann for her commitment to excellence, as well as her professional and personal devotion to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on September 26, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on H. Res. 678 (rollcall No. 909), had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
HELEN FLORENCE BAYLEY ON
HER 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Mrs. Bayley has been a devoted mother and wife, mentor, confidant and friend to many; and

Whereas, Mrs. Bayley has demonstrated values of hard work and dedication throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, she has an unwavering passion for baseball; and

Whereas, Mrs. Bayley's character and faith has been appreciated for enhancing all of those she has come into contact with; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Florence Bayley a happy and healthy 105th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 55TH AN-
NIVERSARY YEAR OF HOLY
TRINITY UKRAINIAN AUTOCEPH-
ALOUS ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 55th year of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in North Royalton, Ohio. In the time Holy Trinity has been in existence, it has served the Ukrainian community of greater Cleveland well. It has brought a community together in a spirit of caring and love for others.

Holy Trinity has served as the site for hundreds of christenings, marriages, funerals and holidays in its 55 years. In addition, it has hosted many concerts, festivals, picnics, fundraisers, and other Ukrainian-oriented functions. As people have immigrated to the United States from Ukraine, Holy Trinity has served

as a vital link between the Ukraine and the United States for the Ukrainian community in Cleveland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Holy Trinity Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church for its 55 years as a cornerstone of Cleveland's Ukrainian community and a shining example of spiritual guidance.

HONORING NAILAH OLIANI
FRANKLIN

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Nailah Oliani Franklin, an extraordinary young woman who was raised in the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois.

On September 19, 2007, hundreds of people began the search for Nailah Franklin after she did not show up for a meeting at work. Unfortunately, the search concluded 9 days later on September 27, 2007, when police discovered her body in a wooded area in Calumet City, Illinois. Her disappearance captured the heart of many in the Chicagoland region and others across the country.

During the week she was missing, a grassroots campaign led her story into the national media. More than 2,000 people filled the sanctuary and vestibules of Trinity United Church of Christ on Chicago's South Side to help celebrate her life. "Even today Nailah is bringing people together," stated family member Marina Franklin.

Nailah Franklin was a gift from God, whose life was cut too short. We will all relish in the impact she left on her family, friends and all that came in contact with her spirit, elegance, courage and strength.

Nailah was born on April 12, 1979, to Maria and Lee Franklin, in Highland Park, Illinois. Her name which means "one who succeeds" is a testament to the life she lived. Her confidence and intelligence earned good grades at Homewood—Floosmor High School, where she ran track and was on the Voyager newspaper staff. In 1997, Nailah graduated from Homewood—Floosmor High School and enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, my law school alma mater.

She remained active in many activities during college. She wrote for the Daily Illini student newspaper, co-hosted a jazz and neo-soul music show on the student run WBML FM, tutored local high school students and assisted with football recruiting. She received her bachelor's degree in advertising in 2001. She then returned to Chicago and began working for advertising giant Leo Burnett. Later, she joined Eli Lilly & Co. in 2006 as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

Her family described her as a force to be reckoned with. A presence. Someone who wasn't afraid to speak her mind, try new things and set the bar high for herself and those around her. "She was strong, resilient, vivacious, opinionated and above all, fashionable. A 'girlie-girl,' she loved her family and friends, fashion, spa visits, music and anything and everything related to Oprah. She was exceptional without being ruthless," her family noted.

She was a music lover with tastes running the gamut from jazz to house to neo-soul to old school R&B. She loved to watch Grey's Anatomy and she had to find out what songs had been used during each episode so she could put them on her iPod.

Nailah will most be remembered as a successful professional, doting aunt, loving daughter, sister, niece and friend—a woman of extraordinary grace and resilience whose spirit blessed all who knew her.

Her family has established the Nailah O. Franklin Memorial Fund at the Chicago Community Trust. The fund will make grants to prevent violence and guide young people's educational and social development.

I pay tribute to this beautiful life lost.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to a family emergency, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

Had I been present on October 3, 2007, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 932 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 701), "no" on rollcall vote No. 933 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 702), "no" on rollcall vote No. 934 (on passage of H. Res. 702), "no" on rollcall vote No. 935 (on agreeing to the Conyers amendment to H.R. 928), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 936 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 928 with instructions), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 937 (on passage of H.R. 928), "no" on rollcall vote No. 938 (on motion to postpone consideration of the veto message of H.R. 976).

Also, had I been present on October 4, 2007, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 939 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 2470 with instructions), "no" on rollcall vote No. 940 (on passage of H.R. 2470)—While I support holding Federal contractors and employees accountable for criminal actions that they may commit while serving our Nation overseas, I have concerns with the drafting of H.R. 2740. I am hopeful that the Senate can address these concerns and return to the House a bill that accomplishes the above goal in a workable fashion. "No" on rollcall vote No. 941 (on ordering of the previous question of H. Res. 704), "no" on rollcall vote No. 942 (on passage of H. Res. 704), "no" on rollcall vote No. 943 (on ordering of the previous question of H. Res. 703), "no" on rollcall vote No. 944 (on passage of H. Res. 703), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 945 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 3246 with instructions), "no" on rollcall vote No. 946 (on passage of H.R. 3246), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 947 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 3648 with instructions,) "yes" on rollcall vote No. 948 (on passage of H.R. 3648).

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
HELEN BASS SMITH ON HER
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mrs. Smith has shown an extraordinary commitment to her community by volunteering at the Salvation Army in Cadiz, Ohio and at the Harrison Community Hospital, where she has been president of the Hospital Auxiliary for four years; and

Whereas, Mrs. Smith has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and
Whereas, Mrs. Smith has worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, the Scio Pottery Company, Lib Gray's Dressmaker Shop, and as a farmer for many years and still continues her active lifestyle by walking two miles every day; and

Whereas, Mrs. Smith's character has been praised by her hospital volunteer coordinator, who describes her as "nothing short of magnificent" and that her spirit is "not a day over 14"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Helen Bass-Smith a happy and healthy 90th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

RECOGNIZING REV. ARTHUR ST.
CLAIR OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual who lived in the early days of Brooksville, Rev. Arthur St. Clair. Rev. St. Clair will be posthumously awarded the 2007 Great Brooksvillian of the Year at a ceremony next week. The award is presented annually to a current or former resident who has made a significant impact on the city of Brooksville.

Born in 1837, Arthur St. Clair was the former slave of Marina Sanderson May, a landowner and taxpayer in Brooksville. Upon gaining his freedom, Rev. St. Clair became a leader in the Reconstruction-era politics of Hernando County and a founder of the Bethlehem Progressive Baptist Church. He also went on to become a Baptist minister, presiding over services at the new church, originally located on South Lemon Street. He and his brother also helped to found the first African-American school in Hernando County.

Eventually rising to serve as the voter registrar, deputy sheriff, county commissioner, a captain in the state militia, and a four-time Republican nominee for the Florida State House of Representatives, Rev. St. Clair was a prominent leader in Brooksville and Hernando County. In an era when black men throughout the South were looked down upon and relegated to second class citizenship, it is a tes-

tament to the character and personality of Arthur St. Clair that he remained a valued member of the Hernando County community for so many years.

In his role as an African-American Baptist minister, Rev. St. Clair was not afraid to take on controversial issues, including that of mixed marriages; those marriages considered taboo in the mid to late 19th century. On a spring day in 1877, Rev. St. Clair presided over a wedding ceremony between a black man and a white woman. This did not sit well with several members of the community, and later that summer on a trip home from Fort Dade, a mob set upon Rev. St. Clair and shot him to death.

In efforts to cover up the crime, the perpetrators then set fire to the courthouse, burning all the records and voter files for the entire county. This led to a severe deterioration of race relations in Hernando County, an episode that some have called a "race war" and left a lasting impression on Hernando County for nearly a quarter of a century.

Madam Speaker, the city of Brooksville was lucky to have had a man like Arthur St. Clair take an active role in our community and have been such an advocate for civic involvement and religious freedoms. I am proud to recognize his accomplishments, and congratulate his descendants on Arthur St. Clair being named the 2007 Great Brooksvillian of the Year.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
JO ANN DAVIS, 1950–2007

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sorrow today as the House of Representatives mourns the passing of The Honorable Jo Ann Davis, Congresswoman from the First District of Virginia. Congresswoman Davis succumbed to breast cancer on Saturday after a lengthy struggle with the disease. I was greatly saddened when I heard the news of her passing. I will be keeping her husband Chuck, their surviving family, and her congressional staff members in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

I had the distinct pleasure of being able to know Jo Ann from her early days in Congress when she was first elected in 2000. She leaves behind a legacy of constant dedication to our men and women in uniform. Though she struggled with breast cancer the past 2 years, but she remained determined in her commitment to continue serving her district, and our service men and women. This same drive was evident at the beginning of her career in public service. Her first election to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1997 came as a result of her defeating a heavily favored 15-term incumbent. There was never a challenge too large for her to pursue, and her constituents were the benefactor of this unswerving commitment to public service. She will be greatly missed by me, our colleagues, and the people of Virginia. God Bless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, due to weather-related travel delays, I was absent from the House floor during Tuesday's rollcall votes on House Resolution 32 and H.R. 400.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both measures.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JOHN AND AUDREY BIRNEY ON RECEIVING THE HALL OF FARM AWARD

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, John and Audrey Birney are appreciated for their dedication and contributions to the Harrison County Farm Bureau; and

Whereas, the couple has had a positive impact on agriculture in Harrison County; and

Whereas, they have served their community on the P & E Committee; and

Whereas, John and Audrey Birney have gone above and beyond to be a spokesperson for agriculture; and

Whereas, John and Audrey Birney have served the organization and the community selflessly and tirelessly; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend John and Audrey Birney on their contributions to Harrison County's agriculture. Congratulations to John and Audrey Birney on receiving the Hall of Farm Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I was necessarily absent from the House on July 19, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on vote No. 684.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3648, MORTGAGE FORGIVENESS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3648, the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007, a much-needed bill that will provide relief to homeowners facing foreclosure on their homes. I appreciate the leadership of the Ways and

Means Committee Chairman, CHARLIE RANGEL. I also applaud the Members from both sides of the aisle who are supporting this critical piece of legislation for homeowners. I cannot think of a more bipartisan issue than basic shelter.

It comes as a surprise to most Americans that when debt is forgiven by a lending institution in a foreclosure, that this amount must be included as income on their tax statement. In a time of rising foreclosures I cannot imagine anything more upsetting to a family than this scenario. The situation usually occurs when the family cannot pay their mortgage and then must give up their home. Then they must pay tax on phantom income when the lender forgives some part of the homeowner's mortgage.

In my home State of Ohio, the foreclosure epidemic went from bad to worse last year as the number of new cases grew by nearly 24 percent from 2005. Cuyahoga County led the state in new cases with 13,610 new filings last year. This ranking has attracted national attention with Ohio's foreclosure rate currently at 18 percent which is higher than the national average of 17 percent.

I must also point out that predatory lenders often target low-income and minority communities. Subprime loans are three times more likely in low-income neighborhoods than in high-income neighborhoods and five times more likely in minority neighborhoods than in white neighborhoods. This is an outrage.

Nothing is more symbolic of the American Dream than the ownership of our homes. Almost all of us dream of the day when we can have a place of our own. For most Americans, home ownership is the single biggest investment they will ever make. That is why the loss of one's home is also one of the most humiliating and debilitating experiences that anyone can go through. It is, at its core, an issue of humanity.

That is why I am pleased to rise in support of this piece of legislation that will allow taxpayers to exclude from their income debt that was forgiven by a financial institution or lender. We cannot sit by as a Congress and add insult to injury to our most vulnerable taxpayers.

Many of the homeowners in my district in Cleveland—which has some of the highest foreclosure rates in the Nation—need relief, not rhetoric. This is the same relief all Americans see and to which we must provide access. This bill provides some relief, but need I remind my colleagues that much more must be done on this front, and I look forward to working on other legislative initiatives that will help to address the plight of the American homeowner.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998 AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2185 to reauthorize and expand Rob Portman's landmark legislation, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. This reauthorization will help developing countries reduce for-

eign debt and provide comprehensive environmental preservation programs to protect tropical forests and endangered marine habitats around the world.

Since enacted in 1998, Tropical Forest Conservation Act programs have generated a total of \$136.5 million over 10 to 25 years to help conserve 50 million acres of tropical forests in Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America. But the rate of deforestation continues to accelerate across the globe.

Similarly alarming is the rapid rate of coral reef and coastal exploitation. The burden of foreign debt falls especially hard on the smallest of nations, such as island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific. With few natural resources, these countries often resort to harvesting or otherwise exploiting coral reefs and other marine habitats to earn hard currency to service foreign debt. According to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, 60 percent of the world's coral reefs may be destroyed by the year 2050 if the present rate of destruction continues.

The Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act expands the current tropical forest conservation programs to include the protection and conservation of these vital coral ecosystems. H.R. 2185 will credit qualified developing nations for each dollar spent on a comprehensive tropical forest and reef preservation or management programs. It will also reduce debt by investing locally in programs that will strengthen indigenous economies by creating long-term management policies to preserve the natural resources upon which local commerce is based. Most importantly, H.R. 2185 will make resources available for environmental stewardship that would otherwise be of the lowest priority in a developing country.

This legislation has enormous consequences for the existence of critical ecosystems, the health of our planet and the livelihoods of millions of people across the globe. I would like to thank Bill Millan from The Nature Conservancy, Lisa Handy from Conservation International, Beth Allgood from the World Wildlife Fund and Kelly Aylward from the Wildlife Conservation Society for all their efforts in helping to craft and forward this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act, which will help preserve the world's most precious natural resources.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE OPENING OF THE ORA E. ANDERSON NATURE TRAIL

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Ora E. Anderson Nature Trail at Rutherford Wetland in Wayne National Forest is being celebrated; and

Whereas, the trail is the first wildlife viewing trail accessible to all persons; and

Whereas, the trail is 1/2 mile long and sits on 20 acres on Athens Ranger District; and

Whereas, it will display poems completed by Ora E. Anderson and watercolor pictures completed by Barbara Sheriff Kostohryz; and

Whereas, the public will be educated on the Ora E. Anderson trail about wetland resources; be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I applaud the Ora E. Anderson Nature Trail and the awareness that it bring to our community.

HONORING DAVID SCHULZ

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Schulz, a devoted public servant, who passed away this week on October 7, 2007. As we mourn his early passing, we express our gratitude for the contributions that he made to Chicago as a public official and educator who was always committed to use his many talents to better his community.

Universally known as a charismatic, brilliant individual, Mr. Schulz was a man whose ambition and talents led him to hold an array of impressive positions in public service. After graduating from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Dave devoted his next few years offering his talents to the communities of Milwaukee and Chicago, holding a series of transportation, public works and budget positions for local government agencies in both cities.

His unyielding devotion to his community paired with his gift of an exceptional intellect led him down a bright path, becoming Budget Director for Chicago and later holding the same position in Milwaukee. In 1988, Dave embarked on a new journey to give to the community through public office. As Milwaukee County Executive, Schulz prided himself on making significant contributions to the people of Milwaukee through building a county jail, upgrading Mitchell International Airport, and overhauling social services.

Schulz's other major achievements included his position as founding Executive Director of the Infrastructure Technology Institute at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Through his work with Northwestern, Schulz became known for his leadership and ability to bring faculty together to achieve a common goal. Dave contributed further to the academic community by passing on his extraordinary gifts of experience and knowledge to the students of Northwestern as an adjunct professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of David Schulz, a creative and dynamic individual who used his brilliance to contribute to the communities in which he lived and worked. I am grateful for his contributions and mourn the passing of a devoted public servant. Our thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies are with David Schulz's family and friends in this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF DR. DANIEL SIMMONS, PASTOR OF MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, ALBANY, GA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Daniel Simmons, on

the 16th anniversary of his being called to pastor historic Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

Dr. Simmons is a great many things to a great many people in his congregation, including myself. Since I joined Mount Zion in 1996, I have come to know him as a man of character, a humanitarian, a teacher, bridge builder, shepherd, and leader. Above all, Dr. Simmons, through his own humble and morally strong existence, helps us, as followers of the Word, stride toward the gift of fulfillment graciously bestowed upon us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Pastor Simmons," as we very fondly call him, leads over 2,000 parishioners who participate in over 50 ministry programs designed to fulfill the church's mission statement, "a vibrant church that reaches the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions," and to help individual spiritual development.

Growing up as one of twelve children of Mrs. Pinkie Norwood Simmons and the late Reverend Perry Simmons in the 1200-person community of Cairo, Georgia, Pastor Simmons seems to be the living embodiment of the familiar motto in Philippians 4:13—"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Through the grace of God, he was able to attend Albany State University and went on to receive a masters in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Georgia, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Bethany Theological Seminary.

Before being called to pastor at Mount Zion, Pastor Simmons received his license to preach Greater Second Mount Olive Baptist Church of Albany, and pastored at Mountain Grove Baptist Church of Dawson, Georgia, and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Sylvester, Georgia.

Madam Speaker, Mount Zion Baptist Church, the city of Albany, and indeed the Second Congressional District of Georgia have been truly blessed to have benefited from the tremendous leadership and teachings of Pastor Simmons for the past 16 years. May our community and our country continue to be blessed by the visionary ministry of Jesus Christ that manifests itself in the exceptional service of my pastor and friend, Dr. Daniel Simmons.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MARK
STEPHEN MILLER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Rabbi Mark Stephen Miller, in honor of his 60th birthday, which occurred on October 5, 2007. For over 30 years, Rabbi Miller has served his Newport Beach congregation, Temple Bat Yahm, with distinction, setting a standard of excellence as a teacher, counselor, and spiritual leader.

Rabbi Miller has worked tirelessly to promote tolerance and understanding, and he continues to be an exceptional role model for young people. I consider myself fortunate to have been the benefactor of Rabbi Miller's kind heart and understanding and my family remain proud members of his congregation. I

am also thankful that Rabbi Miller was able to participate in my wedding ceremony.

Rabbi Miller was ordained from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1974, and in 1999 he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College. He joined Temple Bat Yahm in 1977 as its rabbi following a short time as assistant rabbi at Temple Sinai in Roslyn Heights, New York where he met his bride of 30 years, Wendy. Together they raised five wonderful children. During his tenure at Temple Bat Yahm the congregation has grown from one hundred plus families to approximately six hundred families, and its facility has moved from a one room portable classroom to a sprawling campus which includes a beautiful sanctuary, classrooms, social halls, an intimate chapel and a wonderful amphitheatre for outdoor services.

Rabbi Miller is a renowned lecturer on business ethics, bioethics, tolerance and interfaith relations. He spent over 20 years as a guest lecturer at University of California, Irvine and now teaches regularly at Chapman University. His commanding presence on the pulpit and dramatic storytelling and lecturing style is well known and respected.

Rabbi Miller has been recognized by the United States Congress before. He has given the invocation to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, where he once served as an aide to Senator Walter Mondale. An avid baseball fan and diehard Chicago Cubs fan, Rabbi Miller was similarly honored by also giving the invocation at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY for its annual induction ceremony. It is most fitting that he was born on the same day as one of baseball's most remembered plays, Al Gionfriddo's game-saving World Series catch.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Rabbi Mark Stephen Miller on this significant birthday and for his many years of dedicated service to his family, congregation, community and faith. He is a shining light to us all.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ALBERT AND ELSIE SCHRADER ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Schrader will celebrate 60 delightful years of marriage together; and

Whereas, they will reflect on October 5, 1947 with great joy and fondness; and

Whereas, Albert and Elsie have been a symbol of love, dedication and loyalty for all to be in awe of; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Schrader reminisce on a lifetime full of memories and look forward to many more together; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Elsie Schrader a happy 60th anniversary. We recognize the tremendous impact they have had in their family and in the lives of all those people they have touched.

FLOOR STATEMENT HONORING
OUR NATION'S WOUNDED SOL-
DIERS

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor over 20 brave men and women of our armed forces that were wounded in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and enjoyed some rest and relaxation in Fort Myers last weekend.

The soldiers are currently recuperating at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and came to Fort Myers for the weekend because one man, Cliff Naylor, wanted to show his appreciation for the sacrifices these soldiers have made.

Mr. Naylor was injured himself during the Vietnam War. During his recovery, he spent a restful weekend in Miami, thanks to the hospitality of local organizations in the area. Now, 30 years later, Mr. Naylor repaid the same favor to a group of Iraq and Afghanistan war soldiers in his hometown.

Thanks to the generosity and kindness of the people of Fort Myers, these heroes were able to enjoy some much-deserved rest as well as some of what Southwest Florida has to offer, including our sunny weather and beautiful beaches. Local businesses and veterans organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, offered free meals, lodging, transportation, and activities for each soldier. The entire weekend would not have been possible without the support and generosity of these businesses and organizations, and in particular, Mr. John Ebling, the Director of Veterans Services for Lee County, who assisted with preparations for the event.

I was fortunate to have met these gracious soldiers during a special event that was held in their honor on Monday. I was struck by their perseverance, determination, and commitment to their fellow soldiers. Their strength and hope is an inspiration to us all, and I hope they were able to feel the love and appreciation of our grateful community.

The 24 soldiers that Fort Myers honored with its generosity are: SFC Edgar Abrams, SSG Bernard Behrens, SSG Gregory Burton, SPC Amos Casillas-Hernandez, SPC Denver Dalton, SPC Crystal Davis, SSG Kevin Elliott, 1SG Joseph Gardocki, SPC Ephraim Giron, SGT Matthew Goodwin, SGT Joseph Gose, SPC Nash Marlow, SSG Paul Mullis, CPT Simon Obeng, SPC Andres Perez, SSG Hugh Pettigrew, SGT Tommy Richardson, SFC Corey Robinson, CPL David Rodrigue, SGT Scott VanNatta, SPC Marcus Varnell, SSG Carl Watson, SGT Safari Williams, and SSG Calvin Wilson.

Madam Speaker, I join all the people of Southwest Florida in thanking these courageous men and women for their service to our Nation. They've given so much in defense of our freedoms, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their personal sacrifices.

TRIBUTE TO ALLISON AND JERRY
SOKOL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Allison and Jerry Sokol for their devotion and dedication to the south Florida Jewish community, Hadassah, and Israel. They are being honored by the Galim Chapter of Hadassah at their First Annual Benefit Dinner on Thursday, October 11, 2007.

Mr. Jerry Sokol has been extremely active in numerous charitable and community endeavors for many years. Mr. Sokol co-founded the Future Generation Division of the International Israel Bonds Organization and has been bestowed volunteer leadership positions in the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Israel Bonds Organization, the Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI) program, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, and the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center. Mr. Sokol is currently spearheading the efforts to raise the funds to build a brand new state of the art facility for the Miami Beach Jewish Community.

In addition to his work for the Jewish Community, Mr. Sokol contributes substantial time to a number of community causes. He is currently a Member of the City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Board and dedicates a considerable amount of time to coaching youth football and basketball. Professionally, Mr. Sokol is a Partner with the International law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery and is currently a Board Certified Healthcare Lawyer as well as a licensed CPA.

Mrs. Allison Sokol has been very active in a number of Jewish organizations most of her adult life. Mrs. Sokol's charitable involvement began right out of college, where she co-founded the Future Generation Division of Israel Bonds which spread nation wide. She was also part of the inception of Survivor Alone, an organization dedicated to helping Holocaust Survivors who currently live below poverty level. Mrs. Sokol currently contributes and volunteers with the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Beth David Gordon Day School Board, as well as the Miami Beach Fine Arts Board.

Over the past several years, Mrs. Sokol has been a member of Ort America, Mount Sinai's Young President's Board, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee and the New World Symphony. Mrs. Sokol is also a Lifetime member of Hadassah and a founding member of the South Miami chapter of Hadassah.

After being a partner in two very successful business ventures, Manamana, a successful children's clothing manufacturer and Magic Box, one of the largest network integration companies in the Southeastern United States, Allison and Jerry Sokol started a family and are the proud parents of four children: Jake, Sophie, Caroline and Isaac.

It is a privilege to rise in honor of their tremendous philanthropic efforts and commitment to our community that has made such a positive impact on the 17th Congressional District.

HONORING 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF
ANNUAL FLORESVILLE PEANUT
FESTIVAL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 63rd anniversary of the Annual Floresville Peanut Festival, which celebrates the farming and harvesting of the peanut crop in Wilson County.

The Floresville Peanut Festival was first established on July 29, 1938, and has been held on the second full weekend in October every year since its inception. It is a grand celebration that recognizes the importance of the peanut as a crop staple to the South Texas agricultural community. The festival is started with the annual Goober Games on Tuesday afternoon, which is held on the grounds of the court house in Floresville, followed by the coronation of the Queen Tunaep and the Royal Court during the carnival on Thursday. Each member of the Royal Court receives a scholarship from the Floresville Peanut Festival Association.

On Friday, the full festivities begin for the weekend with rides, food booths, and the Kiddie Parade, in which the children of the City of Floresville are given the chance to show off their floats and costumes. Saturday marks the Grand Peanut Festival Parade, and the day's activities also include the annual raffle, arts and crafts vendors, dance groups, and other forms of entertainment that take place in the town square. The Floresville Peanut Festival has drawn in thousands of visitors from all over the great State of Texas, and other states, to celebrate the peanut as one of the most important crops in South Texas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 63rd anniversary of the Annual Floresville Peanut Festival, and I thank you for this time.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
TODD O'MALLEY FOR HIS TEN-
URE AS PRESIDENT OF WORK-
ERS INJURY LAW & ADVOCACY
GROUP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has shown an extraordinary commitment to his community by serving millions of workers across the United States in need of legal assistance through the Workers Injury Law and Advocacy Group (WILG) where he has been president; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout his life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has served as the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley serves on the Board of Directors of the Executive Committee for Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and is a counsel member of the Workers' Compensation section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley is currently a member of the Board of Directors for Interfaith Workers Justice, a group that uses faith and education to bring awareness about issues concerning wages, rights and benefits for hard-working people; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has 30 years of experience and a very successful track record of helping workers and their families; be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Todd O'Malley on a lifetime of service. We recognize the tremendous impact he has had in his community and in the lives of those people he has touched.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF GOLDSTON, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Centennial celebration of the town of Goldston, North Carolina in my congressional district. Goldston was settled in 1884 and became a charter town in Chatham County in 1907.

When Goldston was settled in 1884 it was first named Corinth, the name of a local church. The town was developed soon after the railroad began operating through the area in 1884. The town is located on a spur of the Norfolk Southern Railway that runs between Greensboro and Sanford. The railroad has been historically important to the growth of the town. The area is also an interconnection point for the Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railway. Much of the rail traffic that comes through town is composed of grain hopper cars going to local poultry feed mills.

Corinth was later renamed Goldston in honor of Joseph John Goldston who donated the land for the railway station and made other substantial contributions toward the development of the town. Some of the early business enterprises were Bynum & Paschal, A.J. Goldston's general store, W.E. Goldston & Co. Goldston has always been a predominately rural town and most of the business and industry over the years has been centered on the area's agricultural heritage, mainly the poultry industry. Goldston had its first post office by 1889 with N.F. Barber as postmaster. Goldston soon became a trading center for the surrounding region and has long had a substantial lumber business. The town became incorporated February 20, 1907, at which time Walter L. Goldston became interim mayor until elections were held later that year.

Small towns like Goldston, NC are the heart and soul of America. Here, folks learn early values like hard work, faith in God and country and support of one another. These characteristics help make the Second District of NC such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

Madam Speaker, the Town of Goldston has a rich history with strong family ties. It is an honor to represent this great town and it is fitting that we take a moment today to honor the Centennial celebration of the Town of Goldston.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN WATER ACT RESOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to join with Representatives VERN EHLERS, JAMES OBERSTAR, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, JOHN DUNCAN, JOHN DINGELL, WAYNE GILCHREST, JOHN HALL, and others to introduce a resolution honoring the 35th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

Nothing is more critical than water, which has always been essential to our survival. It sustains human life, and its patterns have dictated the development of species and ecosystems.

Passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act has been one of our nation's most successful environmental laws. Even as the population of the United States has increased by close to 50 percent, our waterways have shown dramatic improvement in water quality. In 1972, only one-third of the country's waters met water quality goals—today two-thirds do.

However, with one-third of the country's waters still not meeting water quality goals, we cannot simply rest on our laurels. The issues confronting us today and over the next 35 years are even more complex. Our demand for water, coupled with its destructive potential, magnifies our past challenges. There are 6.5 billion people already on the planet and the population is expected to reach 9 billion or more by mid-century, with all of the additional population concentrated in metropolitan areas.

In addition, recent studies have documented a declining Federal investment in our Nation's water infrastructure systems, despite growing needs. Over 72,000 miles of pipes in this country were put in the ground over 80 years ago and are increasingly in need of repair. Our decaying water infrastructure was recently given a grade of D— by the American Society of Civil Engineers. I believe we need a sustainable, reliable, and dedicated revenue source that will help communities address these important needs.

Clean water is critical to environmental and public health; but it can also play an important role in bringing people together. As shown by this resolution, clean water is not a partisan issue. Recent polling has shown that more than eight in ten Americans are very or somewhat concerned that America's water will not be clean or safe for their children or grandchildren. Eighty-nine percent of Americans say that "federal investment to guarantee clean and safe water is a critical component of our nation's environmental well-being."

This is why I am pleased, in recognizing the success of the last 35 years, that we have the opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goals and objectives of the Clean Water Act, dedicate ourselves to working toward a sustainable, long-term solution to the Nation's decaying water infrastructure, and encourage the public to do the same.

I hope the House will move quickly on this important statement in support of clean and safe water.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 949 and 950, I missed these votes because my flight to Washington arrived after votes had concluded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSISTANCE TAX ACT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, 46 years ago, space was the next frontier and President Kennedy focused our Nation on the space outside our planet's atmosphere.

Today's Apollo mission is focused right here on planet Earth. Our challenge is the Renewable Energy Revolution. And nowhere is that call to action being answered better than in Southern Arizona's "Solar-con Valley."

In my home state we are once again proving that American innovation can meet any challenge. There, the leading solar experts who compose my Solar Advisory Council published a detailed assessment of Southern Arizona's solar landscape from research to market development and consumer awareness. Building on some of their recommendations, today I am introducing the Renewable Energy Assistance Tax Act.

My bill ensures that we do not let the sun set on valuable tax incentives for consumers and businesses who invest in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.

By extending these tax credits for 8 years, we will spur the innovation and investment vital to creating a reliable market for new solar technology.

Please join me answering this call to action and supporting solar and energy efficient technology.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DON MYERS ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE FARM SCIENCE REVIEW HALL OF FAME

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Don Myers is appreciated for his dedication and contributions to Farm and Science Review; and

Whereas, he has been described as one of Farm Science Review's, "original three musketeers"; and

Whereas, he is recognized for his research and educational programs; and

Whereas, he has served the organization and his community selflessly and tirelessly; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Don Myers on his

contributions to the Farm and Science Review. Congratulations to Don Myers on his induction to the Farm and Science Review Hall of Fame.

ATOMIC TESTING AND DEPLETED URANIUM: VETERANS NEED HELP

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for two bills I have just reintroduced, the "Recognition of Forgotten Atomic Veterans and their Surviving Spouses Act" (H.R. 3794) and the "You Were There, You Get Care Act" (H.R. 3795).

The Recognition of Forgotten Atomic Veterans and their Surviving Spouses Act (H.R. 3794) directs the Department of Justice to obtain the records of all Atomic Veterans from the Department of Energy Operations Office in Nevada. Using these records, they are to locate and advise all veterans or their surviving widows of their rights under RECA and guide them in filing a claim for the compensation that is due them.

RECA is the program passed by Congress in 1990 (P.L. 101-426) that provides compassionate payments to individuals who contract cancers and other serious diseases as a result of their exposure to radiation from above ground tests of nuclear weapons or from employment in underground uranium mines.

Because the VA did not provide medical care to Atomic Veterans in many cases, many died at an early age. So there are thousands of widows, many on fixed incomes, who have never heard of RECA and do not know that they may be eligible for compensation. My bill will help them apply and receive substantial compassionate payments to ease their burden.

The You Were There, You Get Care Act (H.R. 3795) ensures that veterans who served

in the 1991 Gulf War and subsequent conflicts will be considered "service-connected disabled" for any illnesses currently covered by RECA and other diseases found by the Veterans Affairs Secretary to result from depleted uranium exposure.

Depleted uranium is an incredibly effective weapon, but its residue has a half-life of 4 billion years and many believe that it is a carcinogen. We simply cannot allow another generation of veterans to be treated as were the Atomic Veterans.

In addition, this bill calls for an in-depth medical study to be conducted by independent civilian medical entities, independent of the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, to determine other diseases that may result from exposure to depleted uranium.

We need to ensure that veterans from the Gulf War and all wars waged since will not die an early and painful death without the health care and compensation they need and deserve.

Taken together, my bills make a bold statement—that when young men and women volunteer for service, they can count on their government to compensate them and care for them if their service lends to illnesses. These assurances are so important and so necessary and should aid in the recruitment and retention of military personnel.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT RELATING TO REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to make known my support for H. Res. 405, a bill expressing the sense of Congress in support of the immediate implementation of the July 8,

2006 agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of Cyprus within a bizonal, bicommunal federation as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey illegally invaded the island of Cyprus. Thirty-three years later, we remember this black day as we continue hammering out a suitable way forward. This is absolutely necessary as the people of Cyprus have suffered unjustly for far too long.

Thirty-three years ago, Turkish troops invaded Cyprus in flagrant disregard for international law. As a result, an estimated 160,000 true Cypriots were displaced and another 5,000 Cypriots were killed. The current occupied area is notably one of the most highly militarized areas in the world with 43,000 Turkish troops stationed there illegally. In an act of further defiance, in 1983, Turkish Cypriots declared themselves a sovereign nation. To date, they are the only ones who recognize themselves as such.

Together with both the E.U., and the U.N., the United States has been a strong ally of the Republic of Cyprus, and we owe it to her to continue our steadfast support. As a Congress, we must uphold our Nation's pledge to advance the July 8th agreement that President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat reached a year ago. This agreement would begin the process of setting up bicommunal committees and working groups to address day-to-day issues facing those caught up in this conflict.

I am a cosponsor of H. Res. 405 because of the history I've outlined here. The July 8th agreement is the way forward for an island that has suffered far too long.

As a Greek American and as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I could not feel more strongly about the reunification of Cyprus. The issue is straightforward and clear: we must aid our ally, the Republic of Cyprus, in righting the wrongs of the past 33 years. Passing H. Res. 405 is a step in the right direction.