

70 million people. During this difficult time, our country stood united behind our brave servicemen and women who so willingly took to the battlefields to defend freedom and democracy. It is veterans like Robert that helped us emerge victorious from World War II and restore hope and humanity in a world that was shattered by the darkness of hatred and violence.

His patriotism, courage, and selflessness should be commended and his dedication to public service deserves our highest regard. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his service to this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING VERNA RUTHERFORD OF PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a distinguished Texan and long time community leader in Southeast Texas. After nearly a decade of service Mrs. Verna Rutherford is stepping down as Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce President. As Chamber President Mrs. Rutherford has worked tirelessly for the economic expansion of Port Arthur and all of Southeast Texas.

Mrs. Rutherford has always been a dynamic leader in her community. She is past president and 1981 Quota Club member of the year, 1984 Port Arthur Noon Business and Professional Woman of the Year, 1993 Chamber Athena Award recipient, a member of the Port Arthur NAACP, Rotary Club, and Aurora Sertoma Club.

Mrs. Rutherford's level of commitment goes far beyond the organizations she is a member of and this commitment was on full display after Hurricane Rita ripped through the Texas Gulf Coast. Hurricane Rita has often been forgotten by all but those who have lived through it on the Texas Coast. After Rita, the role of Chamber President grew much broader; instead of business development, Mrs. Rutherford was concerned about getting the citizens of Port Arthur food, water, and housing—there was no task too large or small. Though hurricane Rita slammed into the Texas coast almost 2 years ago Verna is still helping those who cannot find help elsewhere.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to congratulate Mrs. Rutherford on a job well done and wish her the best as she moves forward with her career. Through her diligent efforts and dedication she has made Southeast Texas a better place to live.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF JAMES ROWLAND AND THE DESIGNATION OF THE JAMES ROWLAND ASSISTANCE CENTER IN FRESNO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Rowland of Fresno, Cali-

fornia. A great honor is being bestowed upon James, as the new Fresno County Probation Department Crime Victim Assistance Facility will be officially named the James Rowland Crime Victim Assistance Center.

James Rowland began his career as the Fresno County chief probation officer on October 2, 1972. His efforts to give crime victims the consideration, fairness, and support they so desperately deserve has been instrumental in changing the way the justice system perceives and treats crime victims. In 1976 James Rowland created the first victim impact statement to provide the judiciary with an objective inventory of victim injuries and losses at sentencing. The victim impact statement has brought not only nationwide but worldwide recognition that crime victims need additional assistance. This happened through James Rowland's resolve and fierce determination to provide appropriate and comprehensive services to Fresno County crime victims.

After 10 years of service as Fresno County's chief probation officer, James Rowland went on to serve as the director of the California Youth Authority and the director of the California Department of Corrections. He also established the Office of Victims of Crimes in both State agencies. Furthermore, he instituted classes in State prisons where inmates learned firsthand the impact of their crimes on their victims.

James Rowland took responsibility for changing the justice system to accommodate and respond to the suffering and trauma of those victimized by crime. He has received prestigious awards from both Pepperdine and Harvard Universities, as well as various criminal justice and private agencies for contributions to the field of corrections worldwide. He is now known internationally as a crime victim advocate.

Although James Rowland is now retired after 40 years of public service, he continues to provide direction and assistance to persons and agencies that change the justice system. It is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished honor and for all that he has done on behalf of the county of Fresno.

TRIBUTE TO RON PRESCOTT

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it was with great sorrow that I learned of the loss of my dear friend and colleague who was a real trailblazer in the field of education in Los Angeles. I am speaking of Mr. Ron Prescott, retired Deputy Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Ron was more than a trailblazer, he was a man with a vision for all students in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Although he had retired from everyday active duty in the day to day running of the Nation's second largest school district, he felt strongly about the importance of getting appropriate funding for students who had to be removed from regular schools that operated year round due to overcrowding.

Ron was an imposing figure during his tenure with the school district and later on, as a

retiree, when he launched a second career as an influential and respected education lobbyist.

One of his most important achievements as a lobbyist was leading a way for new dollars to pay for integration programs. His efforts led to funding that became the genesis of L.A. Unified's popular program that created magnet schools to promote voluntary integration.

As Ron stepped into the role of the first teacher hired for a 1960's program that paired white and minority students in district schools, he also found time to found the District's Office of Multicultural Education. He was a front-runner in leading early voluntary integration efforts before the era of court ordered forced busing.

Ron's vision and focus on the education of students in the Los Angeles Unified District will be sorely missed. He stands as an icon of effective, ethical advocacy for the rights of students.

The students of Los Angeles, colleagues and friends, all mourn the loss of Ron Prescott. I extend my most heartfelt condolences to his family, his students, his many close friends in the Los Angeles Unified District, and here on Capitol Hill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRUTH IN ACCOUNTING ACT OF 2007

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Truth in Accounting Act of 2007, which I am introducing today along with Ms. BACHMANN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. COOPER. I am hopeful that this bipartisan legislation will shed greater light on the long-term fiscal challenges facing our Nation and will encourage Members to take a greater interest in addressing our out-of-control entitlement spending. At the same time, I am also hopeful our approach illustrates a potential way forward for the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) as they continue to discuss different options on how to account for our social insurance programs in the Financial Report of the U.S. Government.

This legislation, which is similar to a bill introduced last session by Mr. KIRK, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. Chocola, consists of three main components. First, it requires the Financial Report to include an audited calculation of the net present value of our primary social insurance programs, such as Medicare and Social Security, among others. Second, it requires the President consider this value when making a budget proposal to Congress and fully reveal the impact of his proposal on our long-term fiscal situation. Finally, it also requires the Secretary of Treasury and the Comptroller General of GAO to testify before Congress and provide their assessment of our Nation's long-term fiscal exposures on an annual basis. I would like to briefly discuss each of these components in greater detail.

The proposal to include the net present value of the Federal government's fiscal exposures comes from last year's Truth in Accounting bill. This provision would give the American public a clearer picture of the dire fiscal situation that we are facing, and it would require the Federal government to take responsibility for addressing this issue. According to