

Newton—Azrak Station will continue to be referred to by its Murrieta location, but its official title will be the “Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station,” in honor of the heroes who gave their lives for the safety of others.

As we honor and remember the fallen agents, I would like to thank all of our Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection personnel for their service and commitment to the safety and security of all Americans.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on October 29, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 1010 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 3224)—“nay”; rollcall 1011 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 573)—“aye”; and rollcall 1012 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 747)—“aye.”

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IN MEMORIAM OF LOUIS S. BLANCATO

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Louis S. Blancato—an anesthesiologist, professor, proud World War II veteran, and citizen of the world. In his memory, I introduce his New York Times obituary published on October 25, 2007.

Dr. Blancato practiced and taught medicine, earning over the span of his career illustrious posts as department chair at St. Luke’s Hospital and president of the New York State and American Society of Anesthesiologists. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and maintained a professorship at Columbia University.

He was a lover of his family, country, and Italian-American roots. A native New Yorker, he stepped outside the bounds of his home often, globetrotting in pursuit of good work and good friends.

OBITUARY: LOUIS S. BLANCATO

BLANCATO—Louis S., M.D. On October 23 in Rye, NY. Beloved husband of the late Nancy. Survived by Louis S., Robert, John and Amy and beloved grandchildren Celia and Carly. Also supportive three daughters and son-in-law.

Dr. Blancato was a dedicated practitioner and teacher of medicine with a long and distinguished career as an anesthesiologist. Department Chair at St. Luke’s Hospital and President of New York State and American Society of Anesthesiologists are among his many accomplishments. He was also a Professor at Columbia University. He received many awards and inspired many. Dr. Blancato was a graduate of Fordham University and the Flower Fifth Avenue Medical School and a proud World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Dr. Blancato’s family, country and Italian American heritage were the foundations of his life. A lifelong New Yorker and a citizen of the world through work, travel and many friendships.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 27 at noon in the Osborn Auditorium, 101 Theall Road in Rye. In lieu of flowers the family recommends individuals make a donation to a charity of their choice in the name of Dr. Louis S. Blancato.

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RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AND HELP END THE WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2007*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 573, a resolution that recognizes the tremendous efforts put forth by public advocacy groups to raise awareness and help end the worsening crisis in Darfur.

My district is home to many of these advocates, who work tirelessly to inform their neighbors and bring greater attention to this humanitarian emergency. Their work to end the genocide in Darfur is a critical part of our combined effort to stop the violence and the bloodshed that has claimed entire families.

In this time of international conflict, it is so important for us to educate and inform our neighbors about what we can do to help those in need. I am thankful for all of the people in my district who are working toward a peaceful resolution in Darfur. Their dedication to this cause is singular in its commitment, and I am deeply grateful for their contributions.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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TRIBUTE TO THE NORTH CAROLINA BEACH HOUSE FIRE VICTIMS

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to memorialize the lives of Justin Anderson, Travis Cale, Lauren Mahon, Cassidy Pendley, William Rhea, Allison Walden, all students at the University of South Carolina, which I proudly represent here in this body, and Emily Yelton, a student of Clemson University.

Madam Speaker, when young men and women go off to pursue an education, their families hope for them a bright future and a long life. All seven of these young men and women lost their lives in a fire this weekend and I join with those that I represent at the University of South Carolina in offering condolences to these families. And I also say to the families of Clemson University, our heart goes out to all of them.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and this body join me in a moment of silence in memory of these young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1012, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

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HONORING THE UTTAR PRADESH ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA’S DIWALI FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uttar Pradesh Association of Greater Philadelphia for bringing Diwali to Delaware County.

The U.P. Association of Greater Philadelphia is a non-profit organization formed 4 years ago to connect and provide a forum for people from the State of Uttar Pradesh and the surrounding regions in India. The association brings Indian culture to the community, adding to cultural understanding and awareness throughout the region.

One of the group’s main events is the celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Diwali is one of the few holidays celebrated throughout India, bringing people together in the spirit of the season. The origin of Diwali is unknown, although there are various legends and customs associated with it.

In Northern India, where Uttar Pradesh is located, Diwali marks the return of Lord Rama after 14 years of exile and his defeat of the demon Ravana of Lanka. This represents the triumph of good over evil and of light over darkness, a theme that is common to Diwali stories from other regions of India.

The UPAGP, along with the Indianica Academy in New Jersey, reenacted the story of Lord Rama on Saturday night, and put on a spectacular cultural program that transcended religion, race, and nation. The message of light as a symbol of knowledge and goodness driving away darkness and ignorance is one we would all benefit from hearing more often.

I ask that everyone join me in commending the UPAGP for bringing Diwali and its message to Upper Darby, Delaware County, and the Greater Philadelphia area, in recognizing its contribution to the community, and in acknowledging the hard work and dedication of its members.

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HONORING MINNIE COX

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designating the United States Post Office located at 100 W. Percy Street in Indianola, MS, as the “Minnie Cox United States Post Office”.

Minnie M. Geddings Cox, a graduate of Fisk University, was appointed postmistress of

Indianola, MS, in 1891, by President Benjamin Harrison, and was reappointed by President William McKinley; thereby, becoming the first Black postmistress of the United States.

On January 25, 1900, President McKinley raised the rank of the Indianola Post Office from fourth class to third class and appointed Mrs. Cox for a full 4-year term. However, in the fall of 1902, under the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, a controversy brought national attention to Mrs. Cox. Jim Crow laws overran Reconstruction in America and whites wanted blacks eliminated from leadership positions. Some of the local whites in Indianola met and drew up a petition requesting Cox's resignation. Increased tension and threats of physical harm caused Cox to submit her resignation to take effect January 1, 1903, and leave Indianola.

President Roosevelt believed Mrs. Cox had been wronged, and that the authority of the Federal Government was being compromised and refused to accept her resignation. Instead, he closed Indianola's post office on January 2, 1903, rerouted the mail to Greenville, MS, 30 miles away and Cox continued to receive her salary. For 4 hours in January 1903, the Indianola postal event was debated on the floor of the United States Senate, and appeared on the front pages of newspapers across the country. One year later, at the expiration of Mrs. Cox's term, in February 1904, the post office was reopened, but demoted in rank from third class to fourth class.

Minnie Cox and her husband Wayne W. Cox, who had been an employee in the railway mail service, returned to Indianola and organized the "Delta Penny Savings Bank." They had been substantial property owners before 1903, and they bought more land and became successful bankers as well. Minnie Cox died in 1933.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE  
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 25, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, today, I voted for H.R. 3963, which authorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. The provisions in the bill would make substantial progress in providing health care for children. It would provide coverage for 3.8 million more children than are covered now and preserve coverage for 6.6 million more. It would help ensure Ohio can expand its program to include an additional 20,000 children. It targets the lowest-income uninsured children for outreach and enrollment, ensures dental coverage and mental health parity.

I voted against a previous version of this bill because it excluded about 600,000 legal immigrants. I voted to raise the issue and show Congress they were wrong to do so. I voted for the veto override to show the President that his objections to government health insurance for low income children were outrageous. Today I voted to make the same statement. I urge him to do the right thing and sign this bill.

I believe all children deserve health care. Unfortunately, today's bill does not do that. It

does not even come close. It continues to shun immigrant children in the U.S. who are in full compliance with the law by denying States the option to cover them. It also drastically reduces support for coverage of parents, even though decades of evidence have shown that kids are far more likely to get the care they need if their parents are covered. It bars coverage of illegal immigrants, even if a State determines that it is cheaper and more humane for them to provide routine care than emergency care, which is frequently the case. In short, it sacrifices each of these groups of people as a bargaining chip.

This Congress is spending time and energy arguing over narrowly defined bills that treat a few of the symptoms but fail to address the problems that plague our health care system. Instead, this Congress should deliver the reform America is calling for. We should be moving ahead with H.R. 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act, which would lower health care costs, provide coverage for everyone for all medically necessary services, and create a single best standard quality of care. America deserves—and wants—nothing less.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

As citizens across America celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I wish to recognize the hours of hard work event organizers have contributed in order to provide greater understanding as they share their proud culture.

Especially I am reminded of the sacrifices many have made over the years to community and country.

Today, our armed services continue to rely on the dedication of men and women from Hispanic communities throughout the Midwest and Missouri.

While defending this Nation, and protecting a way of life that offers opportunity to Americans of varying race, they proudly serve.

For all who remain in harm's way today, in order to secure peace at home, we wish them the best, and look forward to their safe return.

CONGRATULATING SCRANTON TOMORROW AND ITS PAST PRESIDENTS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Scranton Tomorrow, an organization celebrating its 15th anniversary and whose mission it is to establish the city of Scranton as the premier urban center in northeastern Pennsylvania.

As part of Scranton Tomorrow's celebration, they are honoring their past presidents, who

include Monsignor Joseph Quinn, Judge Terrence Nealon, Attorney Barbara Sardella, William Bender, Phil Condron, Glenn Pellino and Carlon Preate.

Scranton Tomorrow has launched several initiatives designed to fulfill its mission including Artspace, City Pride, the Lackawanna Riverfront Revitalization, First Night and support for the Scranton Business Alliance.

Artspace is a project designed to produce affordable space for artists to live, work, perform and conduct business while creating a sustained economic impact for the city of Scranton.

City Pride is an annual cleanup and beautification effort that showcases the extraordinary community pride underlying the effort to make Scranton a visually attractive city.

The Lackawanna Riverfront Revitalization project and the Downtown Heritage Greenway project involve a coalition of major stakeholders, including the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, the Scranton Area Foundation, the Lackawanna River Corridor Association, the Scranton Office of Community and Economic Development, Lackawanna County government, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, as well as riverfront property owners. The stakeholders are committed to creating a master plan for the revitalization of the river corridor.

First Night is an initiative aimed at celebrating the arrival of the New Year in a safe and family friendly environment that features food, fun and entertainment and brings together the business and residential communities in a festive atmosphere.

The Scranton Business Alliance is a collective of more than 200 city businesses dedicated to improving all aspects of the central business district through solid economic management, strengthening public participation, and making downtown a fun place to visit. By building on the central city business district's inherent assets, rich architecture, a solid infrastructure, a core of financial, government, and human/social service outlets, and a firm sense of place, the Scranton Business Alliance aims to rekindle entrepreneurship, cooperation, and civic concern.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Scranton Tomorrow and those who have inspired it. Their zeal to return the city of Scranton to a prominent place in the region has captivated the imaginations of Scranton's citizens and has been an important catalyst for the renaissance Scranton is currently enjoying.

ON SCHNEIDER REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER CEO RODNEY E. MILLER, SR.

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, 5 years ago, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and in particular, the island of St. Thomas and the Schneider Regional Medical Center, welcomed a young, passionate, health care administrator to be its president and chief executive officer. Rodney E. Miller took on the job of ensuring that comprehensive, quality health care was available not just for the residents of the U.S.