

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF BISHOP EARL J. WRIGHT, SR., GUEST CHAPLAIN FOR THE DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker it is with great pleasure that I introduce Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr., as the Guest Chaplain for the day. Bishop Wright is a member of the general board, the governing body of the Church of God in Christ, which he helped to create. He also serves as the jurisdictional bishop of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan—Church of God in Christ, a district comprised of 19 churches. In addition, he is the pastor of Greater Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ located in Warren, MI, and also the pastor of Davis Memorial Church of God in Christ located in Grand Rapids. Bishop Wright also is a founding and supporting pastor of Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ #2 in Haiti.

Other accolades for Bishop Wright include being appointed the prayer leader for the Detroit National Day of Prayer in 1992. He was acknowledged for his ministries, church and community leadership roles in the international publication *Upscale Magazine* as 1 of 50 Most Influential Leaders in the United States in the same year. In 1996, the Christian Women Concerned Organization of Detroit selected Bishop Wright as the “COGIC Pastor of the Year.”

Bishop Wright is married to the lovely and gracious Dr. (Evangelist) Robin L. Wright, supervisor of Japan Jurisdiction—C.O.G.I.C. In addition to being an evangelist, she is also a writer, and a great administrative help to the local churches in Detroit and Southwest Michigan. Together they have five children: Earl, Jr., wife—Elaine; Michael, wife—Robin; Marvalyn; Ben; and Jonathan. He truly acknowledges his family as his first ministry.

The Church of God in Christ is a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in which the word of God is preached, ordinances are administered and the doctrine of sanctification or holiness is emphasized, as being essential to the salvation of mankind. Elder Charles Harrison Mason is the founder and organizer of the Church of God in Christ, and under Bishop Mason’s spiritual and apostolic direction, the Church of God in Christ, the church has grown from 10 congregations in 1907, to the largest Pentecostal group in America.

This year the Church of God in Christ celebrated its 100th Annual Holy Convocation; its theme was Celebrating a Glorious Past: Embracing a Promising Future, and it was attended by over 70,000 delegates. In remarking about the convocation, COGIC’s Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., said, “In the last century the Church of God in Christ rose from a motley group of sanctified proselytes to a highly respected denomination with more than 6 million members in 64 countries. The Lord

has used the Church of God in Christ to accomplish great things in worship, proclamation, urban renewal, and gospel music.” The Church is also very active in promoting a social justice agenda that reverses the circumstances of black men, families, and urban communities as well as providing comprehensive programs for youth and young adults.

Bishop Wright has shown himself as a true disciple of Christ, relying heavily on his favorite scripture, Romans 4:21, “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” He exemplifies service to his fellow man, allowing his words to always bring grace to the hearer. He constantly speaks words of hope, spreading the good news to all. He practices evangelism that reflects Christ-like compassion to reach the world with the Gospel. Bishop Earl E. Wright, Sr., is a wonderful man of God and I am happy to know him and to welcome him to the floor of the House of Representatives today as Guest Chaplain.

HONORING RETIRING BUFFALO COMMON COUNCIL MAJORITY LEADER DOMINIC BONIFACIO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor perhaps the proudest member of the Buffalo Common Council, a great civic leader and conscience of the Common Council—its retiring majority leader, Dominic Bonifacio.

As a former member of the Buffalo Common Council myself—and as the son of another former member—I have a warm place in my heart for its membership. Few people in my memory have demonstrated more on an appreciation for the office he holds—and the responsibility that office confers—than Nick Bonifacio.

Nick’s service as a member of the Common Council and as its majority leader has seen more than its share of successes. Owing in great measure to his successful stewardship of the Council’s Finance Committee, the city is in stronger financial shape than it was when Nick first took office. Also poised for greater things is the Niagara District that Nick served so ably—as a part of the city probably best prepared for a renaissance in the months and years to come.

Nick Bonifacio is among the most effective and committed Common Councilmembers I have known during my career in public service. I am proud, Madam Speaker, that you have afforded me this opportunity to honor Nick’s service, and I know that you join me in wishing the best of luck and Godspeed to Nick in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MARTY GRIFFIN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Dr. Lloyd Martin Griffin for his outstanding contributions to Sixth Congressional District, the State of California and the Nation. Dr. “Marty” Griffin is a physician who realizes that a healthy individual depends on a healthy environment. Since the fifties Marty has been involved in successful preservation efforts in Marin and Sonoma Counties, founded several environmental groups, and fought numerous battles to protect the environment.

Born in a cabin on the banks of the Ogden River in Utah, Marty recalls “being intoxicated by the cool desert canyon smell of trout, willow and sage, while my father’s mandolin and the murmuring river waters put me to sleep.” Then, not long after moving to Oakland and becoming a Boy Scout, he met Brighton “Bugs” Cain. Learning from Bugs and his father, Loyal, Marty became enamored with nature and medicine. After working his way through college to earn a M.D. at Stanford University in 1946, he set up practice in Marin County. Over the next decade became one of the county’s top physicians and was instrumental in founding several clinics, hospitals, and retirement homes.

In 1958, Marty joined three legendary patriotic activists, Elizabeth Terwillinger, Caroline Livermore and Rose Barrell, and Dr. David Steinhart and members of the Marin Conservation League and Martin Audubon to save Richardson Bay from fill and development. The bay was saved through a strategic purchase of 900 watery acres, which was leased to the National Audubon Society and became the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

In 1958 Marty discovered plans for transforming rural Highway 1 into a coast hugging freeway from Golden Gate Bridge to Sonoma, destroying wildlife habitat and threatening the rich agricultural lands of West Marin. The freeway would lead to a marina in Bolinas Lagoon and several new coastal communities. In response, in 1961, he teamed up with another Audubon leader Stan Prichard and created the Audubon Canyon Ranch and several projects to raise money, buy land and block the proposed freeway and preserve the gateway to the then proposed Point Reyes National Seashore. From this came the Bolinas Lagoon, Bouveri, and Tomales Bay Preserves. In 1973 Marty lent his skills to a successful effort to overturn a development-oriented Marin General Plan and replace it with one that preserved the open spaces of west Marin.

In 1961, Marty purchased a 240-acre ranch on the banks of the Russian River in Sonoma County. With his usual energy he planted grapevines, turned an old hop drying barn into a winery and eventually hauled onto the property a 100-year-old farm house, which he had

• 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.

exquisitely restored. In the mid-seventies he produced his first wines, including award winning Petite Syrah, Johannesburg Riesling, and Zinfandels.

Hop Kiln Winery became a Sonoma County landmark, and Marty soon became a Sonoma County force to be reckoned with. He saw that local gravel mining operations were destroying the banks and bed of the Russian River, filling its aquifer, lowering water tables, blocking off tributary mouths, and endangering salmon migration. Marty then began a long struggle against river gravel mining that goes on today.

Also in the Sixties, Marty became the public health director at Sonoma State Hospital and Developmental Center, where with his usual tenaciousness and energy, he rooted out corruption, and founded a model program to fight hepatitis. In 1999, Marty was honored with a Public Health Hero Award from the University of California, Berkeley.

Today Marty Griffin lives with his wife, Joyce, in Belvedere in Marin County not far from where his environmental battles began. In his eighties, he remains active and abreast of environmental issues. His work goes on through several organizations he founded including the Marin County Environmental Forum, the Sonoma County Environmental Forum, and Russian Riverkeeper (founded as Friends of the Russian River). His book, "Saving the Marin and Sonoma Coast: the Battles for Audubon Canyon Ranch, Point Reyes and California's Russian River" is an engaging story of the ongoing battles and larger than life personalities involved in preserving nature's treasures on the edge of the Bay Area's teaming cities.

Madam Speaker, it is a book as well worth reading as Dr. Griffin's life is well worth emulating.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN DENVER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the year 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of singer, musician, actor, composer, humanitarian and global citizen John Denver's passing from this planet that he worked so lovingly to protect.

A man who reached out consistently to help those in need; the planet, its creatures, its waters, its wildernesses and its people, John ceaselessly gave of himself in an effort to lift all life to its finest and highest potential.

While his awards, recognitions and achievements are many, it may be more appropriate to remember him as a unique human being who was able to touch the hearts and souls of people all over the planet. The over 300 songs that he recorded during his lifetime expressed the longings of the human family for compassion, unity and peace. His vision for all life can be best expressed in the lines from one of his songs:

"We are standing all together, face to face and arm in arm; we are standing on the threshold of a dream. No more hunger, no more killing, no more wasting life away; it is simply an idea, and I know its time has come."

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Energy Independence and Security Act and the long-overdue measures it contains—including reasonable increases in CAFE standards—to help our Nation conserve energy and to lower the energy costs that weigh so heavily on our citizens.

I applaud Speaker PELOSI, Chairman OBERSTAR, and all of the Members who have worked on this measure for their foresighted leadership on this Act and for their dedication to completing the hard work necessary to bring this Act to the floor today.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I will draw particular attention to the Short Sea Shipping Initiative created in this Act.

This Initiative will support the expansion of short sea shipping—which is simply the alliterative name of shipping voyages between two points in the United States or between Canada and the United States.

At the present time, trucks carry nearly 70 percent of the freight tonnage transported in the United States. By contrast, the most highly developed water freight transportation routes in the U.S.—those running on the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence Seaway—carry just 13 percent of freight tonnage in the United States.

The Short Sea Shipping Initiative seeks to make water a mode competitive with roads and rails by supporting the development of the vessels used in short sea shipping voyages as well as of the port and landside infrastructure needed to load and unload those vessels.

Specifically, the Act will make vessels built under the Jones Act in the United States eligible for assistance from the Capital Construction Fund administered by the United States Maritime Administration, MARAD.

As I know there has been debate on this point, I emphasize that MARAD shall exercise sole authority to determine issues relating to operation of a qualified program vessel in the short sea trade.

We further expect that to ensure this program is initiated right away, the Secretary of Transportation shall work to revise current regulations to conform to this legislation while also approving Fund contributions and withdrawals related to eligible short sea shipping transportation projects immediately.

As I close, I want to note that additional measures can still be taken to promote the development of short sea shipping. Perhaps the most important among them is to exempt these voyages from the Harbor Maintenance Tax. H.R. 1499, which I authored, would achieve that exemption and I thank Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL for continuing to work with me to advance this legislation.

I again commend Speaker PELOSI, Chairman OBERSTAR, and all who have worked so diligently to help reduce our dependence on foreign and non-renewable energy sources.

With that, I urge adoption of the Energy Independence and Security Act.

GENOCIDE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 888, Genocide Accountability Act of 2007, which ensures that U.S. laws provide adequate authority to prosecute acts of genocide. Genocide, despite its being such a heinous and atrocious crime, has taken place too frequently, it needs to stop and the perpetrators need to be held accountable for their actions. This systematic destruction of a group of people based on religion, ethnicity or nationality is one of the most horrifying acts that a person can imagine.

Genocidal tendencies can be traced back to the Armenian Genocide that occurred more than seventy years ago and again during the Holocaust. But the end of those conflicts did nothing to prevent genocide from being committed again. Acts of genocide occurred again in Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda and are currently taking place in Darfur. Too many have died and continue to die as we stand by and watch. It is our job to do whatever is in our power to end these conflicts.

Individuals who have committed acts of genocide have been identified as seeking refuge in the United States. The constitution of the United States does not allow them to be prosecuted here because they are not U.S. nationals. The Genocide Accountability Act of 2007 will give the U.S. the authority to prosecute the perpetrators in the U.S. as opposed to just deporting them and not knowing if they will ever be held accountable for their actions. This bill will assure that justice is served for their acts of torture and murder.

By passing this bill we are contributing to the welfare of the world. Genocide affects people around the world and not only the direct victims; therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TWO MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS
FROM UTMB

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, researchers at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) have been responsible for two significant medical breakthroughs that have the potential to dramatically improve American health care.

Earlier this year, Dr. Lisa Elferink, an associate professor at UTMB's Cancer Center, led a national research team that discovered how use of the bacterial pathogen, *Listeria monocytogenes* could help medical researchers and practitioners understand the mechanisms by which cancer cells develop. This discovery is a major step in developing successful treatments for a variety of cancers.

Another team of UTMB researchers, lead by Dr. Angela Shepherd, have helped American men at risk of osteoporosis by developing the Male Osteoporosis Risk Estimation Score

(MORES). While osteoporosis screening is common for women, many men who are at risk for this bone disease are not regularly checked. MORES provides a quick and easy way to identify men who may need further screening and possibly treatment for osteoporosis.

The development of MORES and the new use of *Listeria monocytogenes* are just two of the advances in medical research to come out of UTMB. UTMB is one of America's leading centers of medical research, as well as a source of quality health care for the people of the Gulf Coast of Texas. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to extend my congratulations to the researchers involved in these recent breakthroughs and to everyone associated with UTMB for their tireless work to improve health care.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR DR. BARRY WEINSTEIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the long service of Dr. Barry A. Weinstein, a dedicated public official representing the town of Amherst as a member of the Erie County Legislature whose service to that body—but not to our community—will conclude on December 31, 2007.

Dr. Weinstein was elected to the Legislature in November of 2007, and his impact upon the Legislature was nearly immediate. A former member and President of the Williamsville Central School Board, Dr. Weinstein's experience at that level benefited him in that he would look beyond political partisanship and toward the betterment of our community.

Since his initial election, Dr. Weinstein served in a number of leadership roles in the Legislature, including multiple terms of service as Majority Leader and as Minority Leader. Dr. Weinstein's commitment to his constituents and to the thoughtful and respectful conduct of the people's business was vast indeed.

That commitment, however, will not end with the conclusion of his term as a county legislator. Dr. Weinstein's election last month to a four-year term as a member of the Amherst Town Board will open yet another new chapter in his public life. As a former local elected official myself, I can attest to the challenges that these positions pose. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity to honor Dr. Weinstein's past service and ask you and the rest of our colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Weinstein the very best of health and success in the years to come.

HONORING ALEXANDER MALLONEE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor a labor leader in my district who has done so much to protect peo-

ple's rights. Alexander Mallonee is retiring after 30 years with the United States Postal Service, including more than 25 years with the National Association of Letter Carriers, NALC, and almost 10 years with the North Bay Labor Council. Since he first joined the union, Alex has demonstrated a calm, caring and respectful approach to addressing the issues facing members of the National Association of Letter Carriers and of the labor council.

Alex didn't set out to be a labor leader. In fact, he was attending San Francisco State University for a master's degree in English when his life changed. As his wife, Kathy Farrelly, remembers it, he was studying in the library in the fall of 1969 when there seemed to be some sort of commotion outside. People raced out of the building, so Alex went to the terrace to take a look. What he saw was the school quad filled with police toting bullhorns and billy sticks to break up a student demonstration.

A command squad rushed up the stairs, Kathy continues, stating simply, "He got hit over the head with a baton."

There he was, an innocent bystander, unconscious, his head bleeding onto the cement, and a cop looming over him with a club in his raised hand. It was a perfect picture of the times, and a photographer who happened to be there snapped it for the cover of *Rolling Stone* and for *Newsweek* magazine.

"I think that's what launched him into social advocacy," Kathy says. "It was a colossal injustice."

From that decision evolved a life devoted to advocating for free speech and human rights. Alex gave up the idea of teaching Victorian literature and instead, because he needed to make a living, became a letter carrier. "He quickly joined the union and became active," Kathy notes. And from that decision came his involvement in labor issues. Soon thereafter, in 1980, he became president of the local branch. He has been re-elected every two years since.

As always, Kathy says, his motivating force has been a search for justice.

"There are so many crises we have handled," explains Jerry Andersen, vice president of Branch 183 of the NALC. "He just doesn't lose his cool."

At the same time, Alex works to protect people's rights, he takes time to teach people, Andersen adds. "A lot of management in the postal service have learned from him."

Alex is one of those people who makes a difference quietly. He doesn't seek glory for himself, but gets satisfaction from doing a good job. In fact, he becomes embarrassed by pomp and circumstance, Andersen notes. Fortunately for Alex, he doesn't need ceremonies to recognize his authority. He has the respect of those he works with and those who work for him.

Kathy, who is retiring as well from her long career as counsel to Sonoma County, says she doubts either one of them will sit back and watch the world go by. Alex will keep on with the letter carriers union for a while, she expects, and with his efforts to make labor unions more a part of an overall progressive movement that includes the environment and affordable housing.

And of course, as an avid cyclist, he will spend more time enjoying the stunning bike trails of northern California.

But the impact of his life protecting workers' rights will live on in Sonoma County. So, too,

will the philosophy he and his wife share and live—that no one can afford to ignore justice that goes awry.

Madam Speaker, Alex Mallonee's advocacy for just causes has meant a lot to me over the years. Because of this and especially because of his life and legacy to the people of Sonoma County, I am proud to honor him on his retirement.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, with the loss of approximately three million manufacturing jobs in the United States since 2001, many families know the effects of increased foreign imports and the outsourcing of their jobs all too well. HCTC was created to ensure that our constituents who lost these good manufacturing jobs would still be able to afford health insurance for themselves and their families. It is unjust for our constituents who have lost these jobs to additionally endure lost or inadequate health insurance because it is unaffordable.

Unfortunately the spouse of the wage earner will suffer the devastating loss of this needed financial assistance to obtain health care coverage when the qualifying wage earner becomes Medicare eligible. The current eligibility requirements for the HCTC program leave a Medicare ineligible spouse without continued assistance under the HCTC, which in far too many cases means being left entirely without health care insurance.

I am pleased that language was included in H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Act of 2007, a bill to reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act that corrects this loophole and ensures that spouses and widows will remain eligible for the HCTC. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 3920 on October 31, 2007; however, this bill has not yet become public law. Consequently, today the House will consider an extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act through March 31, 2007.

As our constituents wait for H.R. 3920 to become law, there are still those who are losing their eligibility for the HCTC and in danger of losing health care coverage for their spouses. As more wage earners approach Medicare eligibility, they fear for the well-being of their spouses and incur mounting stress and anxiety. Passage of this legislation is urgently needed to put an end to these hardships. An extension of the current Trade Adjustment Assistance Act will not ensure that our deserving constituents remain eligible for the HCTC. I urge this body to make certain that the reauthorization of Trade Adjustment Assistance is passed into public law in the urgent manner necessary to protect hard-working Americans.

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST IN THE CLEANUP OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2007, OIL SPILL IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 853, authored by Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI to honor those who volunteered to help clean up the thousands of gallons of oil spilled from the COSCO BUSAN after it collided with the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on November 7, 2007.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I chaired a special hearing of the Subcommittee in San Francisco to take a comprehensive look at the circumstances surrounding that terrible oil spill.

I know that San Francisco Bay is as near to the hearts of local residents as the Chesapeake Bay is to Maryland residents, and I know that it was a love for the Bay, its wildlife, and its sensitive environmental areas that motivated local residents to volunteer to join the effort to protect these resources from the 58,000 gallons of oil headed toward them.

Unfortunately, a number of the organizational difficulties that plagued the initial response to this spill appear to have also affected the deployment of volunteers in the area.

We await the results of a number of ongoing investigations of this oil spill—including studies being conducted by the Coast Guard itself, the National Transportation Safety Board and, at the request of the Speaker and myself, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

As results become available, we are committed to making whatever changes are needed to ensure that the lessons learned from this tragedy inform preparations for the next oil spill—which we know will come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H. Res. 853 and I again commend Speaker PELOSI, Congresswoman TAUSCHER, and the entire Bay Area Delegation for their leadership on this issue.

I also commend the many organizations and individuals throughout the San Francisco Bay region who volunteered to respond to this spill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN, DAZIVEDO WATSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 80 years Dazivedo Watson graced us with his winning charm, political acumen, pioneering spirit, and love. His contributions to the African and Caribbean American community are bountiful; his contributions to his country: limitless. He remains, foremost in my mind, a humble public servant, a dedicated family man, and my good, good buddy.

It is in this regard that I introduce the following laudatory letter, which best captures the litany of honors to his name and the essence of his brilliant character.

NOVEMBER 2, 2007.

Mr. ERROL WATSON,
c/o Crown of Life Love Ministry, 222 West 145th Street, New York, NY.

DEAR ERROL AND FAMILY MEMBERS: I was deeply heartbroken to learn of the passing of your dear father, grandfather, uncle and my buddy, Dazivedo Watson. Just a few months ago, we celebrated Dazivedo's 80th Birthday, and now we are saying good-bye to a great friend, devoted family man, ally, and one of Harlem's most distinguished political strategist, novice, and loyal Democrat. Daz, as he was known to all of us, was on the forefront of every political battle, whether as a supporter or adversary, he dedicated his life to winning, and never losing. In every campaign, Daz gave his all.

Dazivedo will be remembered, not only as an institution, but also as Harlem's gift to the political process. As a political advisor, confidante, and staffer to the late great Harlem Councilman, Frederick E. Samuel, Daz helped to influence African and Caribbean Americans to empower themselves, their neighborhood, and their community. That empowerment led to the election of the first African American Mayor, David N. Dinkins, the first African American State Comptroller, H. Carl McCall, the first African American Lieutenant Governor, David A. Paterson, and the first African American Chairman of the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means, Charles B. Rangel. We are all in his debt.

Let me also extend my sympathies to the Frederick E. Samuel Community Democratic Club family, and its illustrious leadership, the Honorable C. Virginia Fields, the Honorable Keith L.T. Wright and the Honorable Wilma Brown. Let our work on behalf of the community reflect the legacy of our beloved Dazivedo Watson.

Your family and our community have endured a great loss with the passing of Dazivedo. My political family, and my office and I will support you during this time of mourning and grieving. Let us celebrate his life and keep his memory forever in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RUSSELL ARTHUR MATTHES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the residents of Bay City, Texas lost a true friend when Dr. Russell Arthur Matthes passed away on November 27. A native of Bay City, Russell Matthes volunteered for the Naval Air Corps in 1942. Dr. Matthes served as a turret gunner on a flying gunship, participating in the Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, and Philippines campaigns. These were among the most decisive battles in the closing chapters of World War II.

When Japan surrendered, Dr. Matthes's squadron was transferred to the USS *Cumberland Sound* and sent to Japan. His plane's crew flew across Japan, taking aerial photographs for intelligence purposes and also looking for prison camps. A camp at Kobe was found and the crew dropped all the canned food from the plane's galley.

Following the war, Russell Matthes completed his education at Baylor University and Baylor Dental School, where he trained as an orthodontist. He then returned to Bay City to practice orthodontics. Dr. Matthes and his wife, Juniata LeTulle Matthes, raised two daughters and a son.

In addition to serving the people of his community with his medical practice, Dr. Matthes was active in numerous civic and community groups. In order to maintain his links with his fellow veterans, Dr. Matthes was a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2438. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star Jesters, the Shiners, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation.

Dr. Matthes was particularly interested in helping the youth of his community. Thus, in addition to all his other civic activities and his full-time medical practice, Dr. Matthes was very active with the Boy Scouts. Through his activities with the scouts, as well as his other civic work, he helped improve the lives of thousands of young Texans.

Residents of Bay City were not the only ones who benefited from Dr. Matthes' commitment to service. As a member of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Matthes performed church missionary work in around the world.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Matthes' devotion to his community and his fellow human beings set an example we all should follow. I extend my deepest condolences to Dr. Matthes' family and friends.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR CYNTHIA LOCKLEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated public official representing the towns of Cheektowaga and West Seneca as a member of the Erie County Legislature. I rise to honor Cynthia Locklear, whose service as a member of that legislative body, will conclude on December 31, 2007.

In her one term as a county legislator, Cindy Locklear was a proponent of good government and a steadfast protector of local taxpayers. An attorney who exemplified the role of "citizen-legislator" in her time in public office, Cindy earned a reputation as a fighter for government reform.

While Cindy's service as a county legislator was brief, her impact upon county government as a whole and upon the legislature in particular has been considerable. County residents are better for her service, Madam Speaker, and I am grateful to you for allowing me an opportunity to honor her service to our community.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF PHYLLIS FABER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor a visionary, writer,

scholar, and advocate for the environment on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Phyllis Faber's lifetime work to protect agricultural land has not only preserved the beauty of Marin County, but provided an inspiration to other communities to do the same.

More than 35 years ago, in the late 1970s, development plans threatened the beautiful countryside and historic agricultural nature of West Marin. Two women, Phyllis and dairy farmer Ellen Straus, were particularly concerned about preserving the county's farming. While out walking one day, they explored the question of how to protect the land so farmers and ranchers could afford to maintain their operations. The two women reasoned that if development potential were eliminated, the land could more easily retain its agricultural designation. In 1980, Phyllis and Ellen, with support from local officials and the Trust for Public Land, founded the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, MALT, the first land trust in the United States to focus solely on the preservation of farmland.

Since then, MALT has protected nearly 40,000 acres of land on 59 family farms and ranches. It has also served as a model for communities across the country, illustrating how to permanently protect agricultural land through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Over the past 27 years, MALT's conservation easement program has protected about one-third of the agricultural farmland in West Marin, but Phyllis's wish is that in her lifetime MALT will have protected at least one-half of the available agricultural farmland and working farms—and not only protect them from development but ensure their continued operations.

"We are blessed that ranchers and farmers in this area want to stay in agriculture," she says. "Without their commitment to farming, our landscape in West Marin would be quite different."

Phyllis's passion for preserving farm and ranch land is matched by her passion for wildflowers. A teacher, editor, and writer as well as an environmentalist, Phyllis has edited *Fremontia*, the Journal of the California Native Plant Society, and has written eight books about wildflowers.

These have not been Phyllis's only accomplishments, however. She also helped found *Marin Discoveries* and the Environmental Forum of Marin. For the past 3 years, she has chaired the board of the Buck Institute for Age Research, and of course she continues to serve on the board of MALT.

But for those who live in West Marin, those who visit there, and those who enjoy the delicious products that come from there, Phyllis will always be remembered for her commitment to the preservation of agriculture—not just for this generation, but for those to come.

Madam Speaker, Phyllis Faber's advocacy for the agricultural nature of Marin County has left an enduring legacy on the history as well as the landscape of the county and of communities throughout the Nation. Because of this and because of her continued commitment to agriculture and the environment, I am proud to honor her on her 80th birthday.

HONORING THE HUNTS POINT
MULTI SERVICE CENTER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hunts Point Multi Service Center as it celebrates its 40th anniversary of extraordinary work improving the quality of life in our South Bronx community.

The Hunts Point Multi Service Center, HPMSC, was founded in 1967 by local leaders and South Bronx community members to address the scarcity of quality healthcare facilities in the area. With an initial \$50,000 grant, a free health clinic was established to service the Hunts Point and Mott Haven sections of the South Bronx. This clinic quickly expanded its operations when the war on poverty was declared by the Johnson administration, and became what is today known as HPSMC.

For the past four decades, HPMSC has provided services in direct response to the changing needs of the residents of the South Bronx community. This organization has also remained faithful to its commendable mission: the empowerment of the individual and the community. Its many programs are reflective of the organization's commitment to holistic community-oriented human services. Although HPMSC's primary focus has been on providing health and social services, this organization has also become a prominent advocate on behalf of constituents from my district, playing an important role in the development and revitalization of the South Bronx.

During its long years of service, this organization has been acclaimed by the Federal Government and the South Bronx community. Today, HPMSC has expanded its services to the Soundview section of the Bronx and provides services addressing HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, Federal program.

Madam Speaker, the Hunts Point Multi Service Center is an effective and storied institution in my community, which has produced many great leaders for our borough and city. Its commitment and dedication to social justice in the South Bronx is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Hunts Point Multi Service Center on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

HONORING RETIRING LACKAWANNA
WANNA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
RONALD SPADONE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated public official representing the great city of Lackawanna, NY. I rise to honor the service of retiring Council President Ron Spadone.

Ron Spadone is among Lackawanna's proudest citizens, and is among her best-known and best-liked. A former Ward 4 coun-

cilman, Ron ran citywide for the post of council president 4 years ago and was supported broadly throughout the city.

Ron's commitment to Lackawanna has been inspiring, but closest to Ron's heart is his family. Although Ron recently lost his son Ron—my friend and a longtime employee at the Erie County Board of Elections—Ron's retirement from active public service will afford him more free time to enjoy his family and his own recreational pursuits.

Madam Speaker, thank you for affording me this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Ron Spadone to his hometown, the great city of Lackawanna, NY. I know you and all of our colleagues join me in extending a heartfelt thanks to Ron for his service, and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NORTH EDGEcombe
HIGH SCHOOL—ONE OF THE BEST
SCHOOLS IN AMERICA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special high school in my congressional district: North Edgecombe High School. This school, which is located in Tarboro, NC, was ranked among the top high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

This year, only 34 high schools in North Carolina were recognized with this great honor and I am so proud that the Mighty Warriors of North Edgecombe High School achieved this great feat. The dedication of the administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and students to ensure the success of the young generation is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, North Edgecombe High School is seated in a rural area of my district. It educates over 350 students in grades 9–12. Its population is 90 percent minority and 70 percent are labeled as "disadvantaged students." As we from rural districts know, funding for public schools can be concentrated on the metropolitan areas of the state while the rural areas are seemingly forgotten. With limited resources they continue to prepare all students both academically and socially to successfully meet the challenges of an ever-changing society.

The largely affluent Research Triangle Park area which includes Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill had no schools that made the list. This is a true testament to the hard work, dedication and determination of our teachers and students at North Edgecombe High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the accomplishment of North Edgecombe High School. It is my most sincere hope that the teachers, students, and parents continue to work hard to ensure that they make the list again in the coming year. I hope other schools in my district will look to North Edgecombe High School as an example of excellence and a model to emulate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to inclement weather in the Sixth District.

On Monday December 11, 2007, I missed rollcall votes 1142, 1143, and 1144. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

TRIBUTE TO DICKEY LEE
HULLINGHORST**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant, Ms. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst. This month Dickey Lee is retiring as the intergovernmental relations director for Boulder County, Colorado, after nearly 23 years of public service. Her dedication, energy, insight and collaborative spirit will be greatly missed.

In 1985, Dickey Lee became the intergovernmental affairs director for Boulder County. In this capacity, she provided policy analysis to the county commissioners and other county officials, while also communicating and working with other governmental offices throughout the Denver metro area, the Colorado State legislature, State and Federal agencies, and the Colorado congressional delegation. With Dickey Lee in this position, these officials, offices and agencies were kept apprised of what was happening in the county and were consulted on important policy issues.

Dickey Lee also brought her expertise and collaborative, professional approach to various regional committees, such as Boulder County's Consortium of Cities, Open Space Task Force, Solid Waste Task Force, Regional Transportation Task Force, and Regional Transit Committee.

Prior to her service to Boulder County, Dickey Lee gained a broad range of experience. She was a senior vice president at Herrick S. Roth Associates, a public policy consulting firm in Denver. She was legislative affairs director for the Colorado Open Space Council, which was later renamed Colorado Environmental Coalition. And she was a computer programmer for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, here in Washington, DC.

She was also involved in many community activities, serving on the board of directors or advisory committees of Colorado Open Lands (also a founding member and treasurer), EcoCycle (the main recycling organization in Boulder), the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, Political Action for Conservation, Boulder County Healthy Communities Steering Committee, Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board, Plan Boulder County, City of Boulder Blue Ribbon Commission on Revenue Stability, currently serving, and Boulder County Mental Health Center, currently serving.

Her energy and skills were also recognized by Colorado's governors, who appointed her to serve on the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board, the Front Range Project Steering Committee and to co-chair the Patterns of Development Committee and Open Space Task Force, and the Metropolitan Water Roundtable.

Her work and involvement in these important community activities—as well as other significant initiatives—have been acknowledged with numerous awards including: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Quality of Life Award for her role in helping to pass the Colorado Clean Air Act and the inspection and maintenance program for emissions from automobiles; EcoCycle's "Volunteer Oscar" for her work on recycling initiatives; the Boulder County Democratic Party's "Give 'em Hell Harry" award; the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Metro Vision First Place award for her role in the development of the Boulder County "Super IGA," an intergovernmental agreement among the municipalities in Boulder County and Boulder County on growth boundaries and rural preservation; the National Association of Counties intergovernmental cooperation award, also for the "Super IGA;" and DRCOG's Local Government Collaboration Gold Award for her role in the development of the Louisville/Boulder County/Colorado Highway 42 Revitalization Commission Urban Renewal Intergovernmental Agreement.

In addition, Dickey Lee has been active in politics in Boulder County. She has been very involved with the Democratic Party and has helped bring a level of common sense and grounded perspective to her political activities.

Dickey Lee has been one of those who composes the "backbone" of community life. She works hard and with a true respect for what government can and should do to make people's lives better and help make government work better. Her accomplishments and record of service stand as a model for what a true public servant can do and how they should conduct themselves—with decorum, respect and dedication to the common good.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dickey Lee for all that she has done for the people of Colorado, Boulder County, and the city of Boulder. I wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RITA
ENGLE WELLS**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rita Engle Wells a resident of the First District, who died November 28 of this year.

Mrs. Wells was a pillar of her community and cornerstone of her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Randy and two daughters Ashley and Rachele. She was active in the youth ministry as a member of Solomon Lutheran Church.

She loved life and shared that with the children at East View Elementary School, where she was a second-grade teacher. Her kindness for others showed on a daily basis.

Mrs. Wells was well respected by her students, colleagues, and parents as an admired educator. She had been described as a 'light of love' to those around her.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring the life of Rita Engle Wells, a loving wife and mother, a true servant in her community, and a compassionate educator, whose commitment and unwavering determination will be greatly missed throughout East Tennessee.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a step in the wrong direction. Our current focus should be on rebalancing our energy portfolio and responsibly accessing and managing our domestic energy resources to decrease our dependence on foreign countries. This legislation does not improve our energy security in any way. The included Renewable Fuel Standard mandates biofuel production levels which increase our Nation's dependence on the same supply source for both our energy and our food. Basing laws on unavailable technologies and taxing the industry that actually provides energy to the country now, does nothing to decrease our dependence on foreign countries' oil and gas.

I offered an amendment to strike the manufactured language in Sect. 413 of the bill. The bill in its current form would have detrimental effects on the industry, which is a significant contributor to the Indiana economy, and it would undoubtedly result in higher manufactured home prices for consumers.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has an ongoing stakeholder process to improve energy efficiency of manufactured housing. The HUD process strives for cost-effective efficiency standards that add real value for consumers and keep the overall product affordable. Section 413 would inject the Department of Energy into the process. Consumers and manufacturers fear that DOE's "price-is-no-object" track record on efficiency standards will mean that manufactured housing will be priced out of the lower and moderate income markets, harming consumers and costing jobs in the industry. Meanwhile, it will not help energy efficiency since the alternative, stick-built homes, have no national energy standards. Improving the energy efficiency of homes is important, and it is necessary that these efforts take into account cost criteria as well. The manufactured housing industry is already working to meet efficiency standards previously legislated in the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000. This energy bill's manufactured housing language would only add confusion by creating a duplicative program while simultaneously increasing the price of housing.

At a time when the United States' housing market is unsettled, Congress should be making use of every opportunity to assist the average American in their dream of homeownership. This energy bill would make an affordable housing option unaffordable for many Americans.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard in this bill also concerns me acutely. Without regard for the effect it will have on consumers' electricity costs, this standard would require States' investor owned utilities to meet 15 percent of their power generation with renewable energy. Coal is conspicuously absent from the list of acceptable fuels. Indiana has a 250 year supply of alternative energy in the form of coal. Coal is Indiana's most prevalent energy resource, and I cannot support a bill that does not take that into account. I cannot support a bill that increases our reliance on foreign countries for energy, limits States' access to their own resources, and drives up the costs of electricity for hard working Hoosiers when they are already shouldering higher gas prices, and home heating costs. Furthermore, the bill does not include nuclear energy as an acceptable source. This is most confusing because the bill claims to be about addressing greenhouse gas emissions, and nuclear energy emits no Carbon Dioxide. Responsible Federal policy does not walk all over States' rights, disregarding their unique economies and natural resources.

Democrats declare this bill an answer to rising energy costs, but it will only increase energy prices for Americans, and Hoosiers.

This is bad energy policy for our country. It is bad for consumers' pocketbooks, bad for Indiana and bad for my constituents. I urge my colleagues to vote no on Senate Amendments to H.R. 6.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WILLIAMS ON
HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a fine American, a hard-working family man and a good friend, Jim Williams.

Jim was born in Jonesboro, AR, on January 9, 1928, and graduated from Valley View High School. Jim and his wife Joyce were married on December 27, 1953, in Bono, AR. After school he joined the United States Air Force and honorably served our country overseas for 2 years. After serving, he returned home to Arkansas to become a farmer and eventually took a job working for the tool and die shop.

When he realized that working in a factory was not what he wanted to do, he moved to Detroit to learn automechanics from the Wolverine Trade Institute. Armed with specialty training and knowledge, he returned to Jonesboro to become a service manager at Aycock Pontiac and soon became one of the most highly regarded service managers in the country. Jim retired from Aycock when he was 62 after more than 20 years of loyal service to the business. Today he is enjoying his retirement years by spending time with his family and is an active member of the Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Whatever endeavor Jim decided to do, from being a service manager to driving the tractor on the family farm, it was evident that he had an impeccable work ethic. In addition, he always treated everyone with respect and dignity, which is one of the many reasons he was a successful service manager at Aycock Pon-

tiac and well regarded throughout his community.

Jim has been married to his wife Joyce for 53 years. They have one daughter, two grandchildren and are expecting their first great-grandchild in the spring. Jim's commitment to our country and his decades of service to his community and his family are remarkable. In honor of his 80th birthday, I ask my fellow members of Congress to join me in congratulating Jim on this special occasion.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE
VICTIMS OF CYCLONE SIDR IN
SOUTHERN BANGLADESH

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 842, a resolution that I introduced. This legislation expresses sympathy to and pledges the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States to help the victims of Cyclone Sidr in Southern Bangladesh.

Cyclone Sidr struck southern Bangladesh with 155-mile-an-hour winds on November 15th. Since then, its impact has been felt by more than 8.7 million Bangladeshis—more than 3,000 of whom were killed by this storm, 1.5 million who have lost their homes and livelihoods, and thousands of children who have lost one or more parents, their schools and their access to food and water.

The damage caused by Cyclone Sidr was widespread. In fact, the southern districts of Bangladesh were so devastated by the cyclone that one relief worker commented that Bagerhat—one of the districts most damaged—looked like a “valley of death” in the days after the storm. Even Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh that is located more than 130 miles away from the southern coastline, was impacted by the storm—losing access to power and water for days.

In addition to the human loss of life and livelihood caused by this storm, another great loss was felt by the flora and fauna of Bangladesh. During the cyclone, a massive tidal wave hit the Sunderbans, the world's biggest mangrove forest and the home of the endangered Royal Bengal tiger. While researchers have yet to verify how many of these endangered tigers were killed in the storm, the damage that resulted from the cyclone has led experts to declare the forest an “ecological disaster.”

However, in the midst of this death and destruction, the U.S. government has been doing invaluable work to help the people of Bangladesh. That is why this resolution also expresses support for the U.S. government's efforts to provide emergency assistance to the people of Bangladesh. In fact, I want to single out the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which has thus far provided the people of Bangladesh with more than \$19.5 million in emergency food aid and other humanitarian assistance. USAID has also—in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh—quickly reached over 8 million of the most vulnerable people in the wake of this disaster to provide assistance and help relieve human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, while Cyclone Sidr took away thousands of lives in Bangladesh, it has brought out the best in both American and Bangladeshi aid workers—enabling them to work together to help millions of people hurt by this storm and provide them with humanitarian assistance. I commend them for their efforts and call on my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation so that we may express the House's strong sympathy and support for the people of Bangladesh in their time of crisis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, December 11, 2007, due to my flight being delayed due to mechanical issues, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 842, H. Res. 847, and H.R. 4343.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1142 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 842, Expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh, I would have voted “aye.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1143 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 847, Recognizing the importance of Christmas and the Christian faith, I would have voted “aye.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1144 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4343, the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act, I would have voted “aye.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote Nos. 1142 through 1144 on December 11, 2007. My plane was delayed due to mechanical problems in Atlanta.

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 1142, H. Res. 842—expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh, “aye”; rollcall vote No. 1143, H. Res. 847—recognizing the importance of Christmas, “aye”; rollcall vote No. 1144, H.R. 4343—the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act, “aye.”

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA
H. WORTLEY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of internationally

known authority on paper-making technology, Barbara H. Wortley.

Mrs. Wortley of Fort Lauderdale, FL, passed away on November 25 in Washington, DC surrounded by her loving family. The wife of former Congressman George C. Wortley, she conducted innovative research in paper-making techniques for more than 40 years.

Barbara was the first woman graduate of the SUNY College of Forestry with a pulp and paper specialty. She was an honors forestry graduate and also received a cum laude degree in chemistry from Syracuse University in 1948.

She was senior technical manager for Allied Chemical in Solway, NY, later Allied Signal and then General Chemical. Her work took her to countries around the world to solve technical problems in paper mills.

Numerous organizations awarded Barbara for her achievements. The Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, TAPPI, awarded her for many years of contributions to the organization. Barbara wrote more than 30 technical papers, contributed regularly to professional journals, organized seminars and was a member of TAPPI for more than 40 years.

Barbara served on several Central New York foundations and associations. She was a past president of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, NY, an international professional women's organization; a former member of the CNY Epilepsy Foundation; and a former member of the New York State Women's Advisory Council. For her many contributions, she was a Syracuse Post-Standard Woman of Achievement for Science.

She is survived by her loving husband, George C. Wortley, and their children, son George, daughters Ann and Elizabeth, daughter-in-law Susan, sons-in-law Frank and John, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

For her contributions to paper-making technology and to the greater Central New York community, I honor my dear friend Barbara H. Wortley for her lifetime of accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH COLLINS,
CHIEF ECONOMIST, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Dr. Keith Collins who has served with distinction as the Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for almost 14 years. At the end of this year Keith will retire, and he will be missed, not only by his colleagues at USDA but by all of us who came to respect and rely on his nonpartisan, thoughtful and detailed analysis of economic issues in agriculture.

Keith began his career as an economist with USDA in 1977, and his tenure there has spanned four presidencies of both political parties. He has served under nine Secretaries of Agriculture.

In 1994, Keith was named Chief Economist at USDA, and in that capacity he has been responsible for economic forecasts and projec-

tions and has advised the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of alternative programs, regulations and legislative proposals. His advice has not been limited to the Secretary either; he has become a valued advisor to Members of Congress and others involved in agriculture policy.

On highly charged political issues, Keith is known for his honesty, competency and influence. Even when facing tough questions from Members of Congress, nothing seems to rattle Keith's calm, rational demeanor.

Keith has also earned the respect of his peers in the field of agricultural economics. Keith is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, which is the highest honor the agricultural economics profession can bestow.

One economist who worked with Keith over the years measured the potential success for newly appointed Secretaries of Agriculture using what he called the "Keith Collins intelligence test." If the new Secretaries re-appointed Keith as Chief Economist, they passed.

Keith's colleagues at USDA have also recognized his outstanding contributions. He received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 1990 and 1996 and the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive in 1992, the highest award a Federal executive can receive.

Madam Speaker, Keith's retirement is a real loss for American agriculture. Through his service at USDA, he has influenced agriculture policy in many positive and lasting ways. His work truly has touched the lives of many Americans, especially our Nation's farmers and ranchers.

On behalf of the House Agriculture Committee, I extend to Keith our deepest appreciation for his service to American agriculture and wish him great happiness in retirement.

RECOGNITION OF HANDLEY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize today the players and coaches of the Handley High School varsity football team from Randolph County in Alabama's Third Congressional District.

These talented young athletes recently won the 4A Regional Championship, and in doing so, became a great source of pride by their community. These young people worked tirelessly to earn this great honor, and brought together young and old fans across Randolph County to cheer the Handley Tigers on.

I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate the Handley High School varsity football team of 2007 in the House today, and extend my most heartfelt congratulations to these talented young people for their significant accomplishment.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Energy Independence and Security Act. With this legislation, the new Democratic Congress is leading America in a new direction on energy policy.

This is the most significant energy bill in a generation. The House is taking a major step toward ending our dependence on foreign oil by increasing efficiency standards for cars and trucks for the first time in over 30 years. This will reduce America's need for oil by 1.1 million gallons per day, cut emissions almost 27 million tons per year, and save Minnesota families up to \$1,000 every year.

The Energy Independence and Security Act is Congress's most serious effort to combat global climate change to date. The bill includes the first ever national Renewable Energy Standard requiring utilities to generate at least 15 percent of the electricity we use from renewable sources, including wind, solar, biomass and geothermal sources. In addition, it also implements landmark energy efficiency standards for appliances, lighting, and buildings, which will significantly reduce our emissions, while saving American families and businesses billions of dollars in unnecessary energy costs.

By setting new priorities, the House can do all this while also cutting costs for consumers and creating millions of new high-paying, high-skill "green" jobs. This legislation repeals \$21 billion in taxpayer subsidies for highly profitable oil and gas companies and redirects these needed resources into developing America's new clean energy economy. This money will be invested in research and development so that American auto makers will produce the next generation of hybrid and electric cars. It will allow 3 million Americans to receive job training for new green jobs, and provide assistance for small businesses to reap the benefits of this growing industry. It will ensure that power plants become cleaner through tax credits for investments in clean power and the long overdue implementation of carbon capture and sequestration technologies. Moreover, Minnesota farmers will benefit from its historic commitment to homegrown biofuels—replacing Middle East crude with Midwest crops.

It is time to make America more secure, more prosperous and more environmentally sustainable. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a new direction in energy policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on December 11, 2007, due to inclement weather grounding flights from Wisconsin. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 1142 through 1144.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Aye" on rollcall vote 1142—H. Res. 842, Expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh. "Aye" on rollcall vote 1143—H. Res. 847, Recognizing the importance of Christmas. "Aye" on rollcall vote 1144—H.R. 4343, The Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL CONNORS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Ethel Conners, manager of United Trust & Savings Bank in Dougherty, IA, after serving her community for over 58 years.

In 1944, Ethel returned to Dougherty to be closer to her mother after her father died, leaving her position as a private secretary to Ward Hamilton at Hamilton Business College in Mason City, IA. Shortly after she began working at the United Trust & Savings Bank she took over as manager. At 90 years of age, Ethel has become a town institution, serving not just as the bank manager, but the unofficial town historian as well.

Ethel Conners has left a permanent mark on the city of Dougherty and the surrounding region and will be truly missed at the United Trust & Savings Bank. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Ethel for her leadership and service to the community of Dougherty and congratulating her on her retirement. I consider it an honor to represent Ethel in Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement as she continues to play an integral role in her community.

IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3541, the Do Not Call Improvement Act. The legislation is simply very straightforward and I believe merits the support of all Members.

The bill removes the requirement for the Federal Trade Commission to remove consumers' phone numbers from the Registry. The original rules for the Registry required consumers to re-register their phone number every 5 years. This was intended to keep the list accurate over the years as numbers were disconnected and reassigned to new customers. The rules as they currently are would result in many millions of Americans being removed from the Do-Not-Call list each year, whether they like it or not. The bill before us changes these rules by requiring that numbers on the Registry remain there, so that people's

dinners don't start getting interrupted by telemarketers all of a sudden. At the same time, we direct the FTC to keep the list accurate by periodically "scrubbing" the list of invalid and disconnected numbers. I think this strikes the right balance for consumers and the industry. I urge support for the bill.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS TOWN

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the founding of Father Flanagan's Boys Town 90 years ago today in Omaha, NE. Father Flanagan came to Omaha as a frail Catholic priest determined to make a difference and he found his calling in caring for, educating and housing orphaned boys. Father Flanagan's attitude can best be summed up by his famous aphorism "there are no bad children." He firmly believed this and it became the basis of the work of Boys Town.

Another aphorism attributed to the children of Boys Town is: "He ain't heavy Father, he's m'brother." This simple statement encompasses what we all know—that with help from our peers and our Creator we can bear any burden to help those in need.

The difference Father Flanagan made in the lives of young people resonates to this day. Because of Father Flanagan's commitment to improving the lives of children, Boys Town now assists homeless or at-risk children in 14 States as well as the District of Columbia. In fact, last year approximately 450,000 children and families found help through Boys Town National Hotline. This number includes 34,000 calls from youth where hotline staff intervened to save a life or provide counseling. These numbers are truly impressive for one organization.

Father Flanagan's work even led to the production of the movie Boys Town starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, for which Spencer Tracy earned the Academy Award. Using the fame generated by the Academy Award winning movie, Father Flanagan expanded his work on the welfare of children beyond the United States and traveled to Japan and Korea in 1947 to study child welfare problems. He made a similar trip to Austria and Germany, and while in Germany he died on May 15, 1948 of a heart attack. He was buried in the Dowd Chapel at Boys Town.

Madam Speaker, without Father Flanagan and his dedicated work, which continues through Boys Town, our Nation would be a poorer place spiritually. I believe that Father Flanagan's Boys Town is an excellent example of the positive impact faith-based institutions can have on our society. Father Flanagan's Boys Town is now Father Flanagan's Girls & Boys Town to reflect the fact that it serves all children.

I commend their continued commitment to the children of this Nation and believe they deserve the recognition of Congress on the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Boys Town's founding.

TRIBUTE TO THE VFW POST NO. 2541 ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2541 on their 75th anniversary. Post 2541 has been organized since 1932 in Algona, IA, which is located in Kossuth County.

No one has done more to secure America's freedom and prosperity than our veterans who have valiantly defended our country. I commend all past and present members of Post 2541 for their dedicated service to America as they celebrate this historic milestone in their post's history.

The mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense. For 75 years, Post 2541 has lived out this mission for the betterment of their community and the United States of America.

Again, I congratulate the Kossuth Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2541 on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable chapter in Congress, and I wish them an equally storied future.

DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY FEE EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2601, Do Not Call Registry Fee Extension Act of 2007. I am a cosponsor of the legislation and I want to thank Mr. STEARNS for his great work on this bill, and for his leadership on this issue.

I have never seen a legislative proposal move so quickly and achieve such immediate popularity. In the 108th Congress, then-Chairman Tauzin introduced the bill and it became law in less than 2 months. After a court challenge, it was clear that we needed to shore up the FTC's authority, and a bill for that purpose was offered and became law in just 5 days.

I am glad that Mr. STEARNS, along with Mr. RUSH, Mr. PICKERING and Mr. DOYLE, have worked with the FTC to reauthorize and improve that program, and I offer my strong support. I am also grateful to the FTC for their great work in keeping dinnertime uninterrupted for me and 145 million others. This is one instance in which Congress has received near-unanimous, bipartisan approval from the public, and I urge all Members to support H.R. 2601.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOHN
FREDRICK NORWOOD

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend John Fredrick Norwood who died on December 7, 2007.

Reverend Norwood and I were friends for over 20 years. We were friends in the very best sense. We stuck with each other through thick and thin—through victories and defeats, good times and challenging times. He was a great source of support for me and my husband Bob.

Reverend Norwood (I rarely called him John) was my mentor. He advised me and helped me as I ran my campaigns, as I set up my offices and as I worked in my official capacities to serve our community.

Reverend Norwood was a role model for me. I saw him treat those with the least, with the greatest respect. He helped and befriended people regardless of race, gender, or station in life. No one had fallen too far for John Norwood to offer a helping hand, often with no public recognition for doing so. His generosity of spirit and of material things had no bounds.

Reverend Norwood was courageous. He would insert himself into controversies that others avoided when he knew the cause was just and his voice was needed, regardless of the consequences.

Reverend Norwood was a spiritual adviser to me, something that may sound odd from a Jewish woman and proud member of Beth Emet synagogue. Next to Beth Emet, however, Mt. Zion was my spiritual home. I will never, ever forget the day that he prayed for me as I knelt in front of the church while he and members placed their hands on me. I was deeply touched inside and out and filled with the commitment to always do my best to be worthy of their blessings.

Whether it was helping the children at that great organization Family Focus, serving as Senior Police Chaplain or on the District 65 school board, working for political candidates, or reaching into his own pocket to help, for example, to pay for funeral expenses for a family in need, Rev. Norwood was a kind and generous and loving man. His legacy will live on in the many people he helped, in the many improvements he made in our community, and in the many lives that he deeply touched, including mine.

I feel so fortunate that I was able to have a wonderful afternoon visit with Rev. Norwood at the North Shore just days before he died. He was clearly so happy to be back in Evanston, and I marveled at how well he looked. The very next day, I was in Washington, DC with BARACK OBAMA and I had him sign a photo for Rev. Norwood. I was planning to bring it to him for Christmas. BARACK remembered him fondly from his days campaigning for the U.S. Senate and wrote "To Rev. Norwood, God Bless."

And God did bless Rev. Norwood with a good life filled with loving family and friends and an abundance of achievements great and small. He is home now and sorely missed here. I loved Rev. Norwood and I always will. On behalf of my husband and myself, I extend

our most sincere condolences to his family and closest friends and all who mourn the loss of our precious friend, Rev. John Fredrick Norwood.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY OESTMANN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeremy Oestmann of Fort Atkinson, Iowa on graduating from the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program.

On November 14, 2007, Jeremy graduated from the 10-month-long Americorps program, which is run by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This full-time, team-based residential program organizes teams of 10–12 members to respond to needs identified by community-based organizations in local communities across every state. One of Jeremy's notable assignments was to serve in the Gulf Region after Hurricane Katrina struck in order to support disaster relief and ongoing recovery efforts.

Jeremy served as the Team Leader for the Fire Seven team, a duty that required immense responsibility, steadfastness, and strong-willed character. Jeremy's leadership and willingness to serve is a wonderful example of the eagerness of Iowans to help one another and make sacrifices for the betterment of their communities and America.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending and congratulating Jeremy Oestmann for his service to, and graduation from the Americorps program. I consider it an honor to represent Jeremy in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP FAWCETT

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philip Fawcett, who has been serving as Legislative Fellow in my office since January and will be completing his tenure at the end of this month.

Phil Fawcett joined my staff last January through the 2007 Congressional Fellowship Program of the Brookings Institution. He exemplifies a truly remarkable and exceptionally dynamic professional and has contributed greatly to the work my office has done for the 17th District. His work on the issues of transportation, housing, and the environment has been well-organized and efficient, and I have greatly valued his advice on a wide variety of co-sponsorship and voting matters.

Phil Fawcett attended the Georgia Institute of Technology and graduated with highest honors with a degree in aerospace engineering. Phil also gained his masters and doctorate degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He went on to pursue a career with the Aerospace Corporation and has worked closely with the National Reconnaissance

Organization and numerous other programs within the Department of Defense. His extensive education, combined with his impressive 14 years of experience with technical and programmatic consulting, has played an integral role in his Legislative Fellowship. Having worked with various areas of the U.S. Government and numerous IC agencies, Phil has significantly contributed to my domestic agenda as well as international affairs related issues, such as my testimony to the U.S.-China Economic Security and Review Commission. He has also been a vital component in the areas of currency and trade, as he was responsible for helping to move legislation on international monetary policy and currency manipulation. His letter to the chairman and ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee that urged movement on the currency issue garnered the collection of over 90 member signatures.

Phil Fawcett has worked closely with my district office and maintained crucial relations with the Department of Commerce, U.S. Trade Representative, Ohio Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration, among many other essential divisions. He has also handled all issues related to my co-chairmanship of the House Manufacturing Caucus with skill and proficiency. Furthermore, his vigorous commitment to the organization, planning and implementation of the Tech Belt Forum last September generated a very successful event, which was a significant stepping stone in the future economic and industrial advancement of my district.

I would like to personally thank Phil Fawcett for his tremendous dedication and distinguished service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Phil, it's been a pleasure working with you and good luck!

TRIBUTE TO THE GETTELFINGER
FAMILY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true great American family. The Gettelfinger family has been one of the leading families of Knoxville, TN, for many years. The senior generation of this great American family now consists of Andrew, Earl, and Herman Gettelfinger and their wives Frances, Marianne, and Nancy.

We have heard and read much about the Greatest Generation of Americans, deservedly referring to World War II and Korean veterans and those who have raised the so-called Baby Boom Generation.

The senior Gettelfinger family generation has put their children and grandchildren in a position to generate over \$500 million for our State and local economies. They and their families have been leaders in the petroleum industry, food and beverage industry, and commercial and residential development.

The Gettelfinger family, through all of its business and economic development, has created many lucrative jobs and has helped untold numbers lead more comfortable and convenient lives.

The Gettelfinger family has also taken a leading role, and has generously donated to

numerous charities, including the Helen Ross McNabb Center, Empty Stocking Fund, United Way, Catholic Charities, and many others.

The three Gettelfinger families whom I am honoring have raised 18 children, who are successful in their own right, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Andrew and Frances Gettelfinger, Earl and Marianne Gettelfinger, and Herman and Nancy Gettelfinger are being honored by their families and friends in Knoxville on December 16, 2007. I would like to join in paying tribute to those wonderful people. This Nation is a much better place today because of the Gettelfinger family and the senior generation that is being honored at this time.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute the Gettelfinger family of Knoxville, TN.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN TUNTLAND

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Joan Tuntland, who passed away on June 18, 2007, with the same strength, poise, and grace which defined her life.

Joan was born in 1937 in Stockton, California, and moved as a young child to Reno, Nevada, with her family. There she grew up attending Veteran's Memorial Elementary School and subsequently graduated from Reno High School in 1956. The friendships Joan forged during her time at Reno High School proved to be lifelong, culminating in her 50-year high school reunion last summer.

Joan worked various jobs and eventually met her husband, Larry, while they were both employed at the First National Bank of Nevada. Larry would later become president, thanks in part to the support offered by Joan. Joan and Larry were married in February of 1963, and soon welcomed two sons, Daniel and Ray, into their young family. Joan and her young family moved to Las Vegas in 1983, where Joan immediately became active in the community. These contacts forged friendships which she would hold dearly the rest of her life.

While in Las Vegas, Joan became active with Bishop Gorman High School, mirroring her involvement at Bishop Manogue High School in Reno. Her continuous support of Bishop Gorman High School was formally acknowledged as she and Larry were bestowed the honor of being inducted into the Royal Order of the Gael in March of 1992. In 1996, shortly before her husband's retirement they relocated back to Reno, Nevada.

Joan was blessed throughout her life with many amazing friendships; however, family remained her primary purpose and true love in her life. Her love, leadership, and spirituality made her the rock and foundation of her family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Mrs. Joan Tuntland. Her dedication and love for her family and community should serve as an example to us all. I applaud all her efforts and accomplishments and I send my sympathies, as she will be missed by many.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NORM GARY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

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

Whereas, Mr. Gary is recognized for 30 years of dedication to the Hocking County community; and

Whereas, Mr. Gary has impacted the lives of many while teaching residents skills that have helped them obtain employment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I thank Norm Gary for his 30 years of service. We recognize the tremendous impact he has had in his community and in the lives of all those people he has touched.

CONGRATULATING LYNN HIDEELL AND CAROL J. MEADE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lynn Hidell and Carol Meade, who were honored as Citizens of the Year in Little Elm, Texas.

Ms. Hidell and the late Ms. Meade volunteered as a team for 10 years at several Little Elm events, such as the July Jubilee, the Holiday Celebration at Beard Park, the Little Elm Awards Foundation, and the Summer Rhythms Concert Series. The two ladies have been friends for years, and while working together for their community complemented each other through their compatibility. The decision was a plurality, as the selection committee received multiple nominations for both Hidell and Meade.

Ms. Hidell began volunteering in Little Elm over 10 years ago as a means to get to know people in her community. She also donates time at the Little Elm Area Food Bank, and hosts a jet-ski adventure fundraiser each year to benefit the food bank. She works as an office manager for Hidell and Associates, Inc.

Apart from her volunteering with Hidell, Ms. Meade also served on the Lake Vision Committee. Those who knew Ms. Meade recall her as a caring, giving, hard working, and kind-hearted individual.

These ladies exemplify hard work and a commitment to their community. I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Lynn Hidell and Ms. Carol Meade of Little Elm. It is an honor to represent them in the 26th district of Texas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE CEDRIC A. KERNS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Cedric A. Kerns, who is being

honored as a Bench Trailblazer by the Bicolanos of Nevada and Filipino American California Expatriates Society of Las Vegas.

Judge Kerns first became active in the Las Vegas community while attending the University of Nevada Las Vegas. During his undergraduate years he was a member of UNLV's nationally ranked debate team. After receiving his juris doctor from the University of San Diego, Judge Kerns became partner and co-founder of the law office of Kerns and Lybarger, where he focused on criminal defense and domestic law. During his time in private practice, Judge Kerns was appointed as a member of the Nevada Supreme Court's Task Force for the "Study of Economic Bias" in the justice system.

The experience gained while Judge Kerns was in private practice helped him to succeed in being elected to the Las Vegas Municipal Court, Department 5, in 1997. During his 10 years as a judge in Las Vegas, Judge Kerns has greatly enriched the community, as is evident in his being awarded the 2006 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award by the Nevada Judges Association. One of the projects that Judge Kerns began and has maintained is the Habitual Offender Prevention and Education (HOPE) Court. Through his hard work he has helped habitual offenders to get sober and off the streets. Judge Kerns also spends time as the Las Vegas Municipal Court liaison for Domestic Violence Offenders; he serves as a member of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, an administrative arm of the Supreme Court, as well as being a member of the Court Funding Commission of the Supreme Court.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Judge Cedric A. Kerns. Throughout his years as a lawyer and judge, he has committed himself to helping others and the community. I congratulate him on being recognized as a Bench Trailblazer, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HAROLD AND DIANE KEESEE ON RECEIVING THE ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARD.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Harold and Diane Keesee are recognized for receiving the Angels in Adoption Award, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Kessee are an asset to our community and have been fostering children for seventeen years, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Kessee have made a difference in those lives that enter their home, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Kessee exemplify the spirit of selflessness and giving through their extraordinary work in child welfare; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Harold and Diane Kessee on their contributions and service to children in Tuscarawas and Guernsey Counties. Congratulations to Harold and Diane Kessee on receiving the Angels in Adoption Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GAIL
ROMBERGER NONNECKE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Gail Romberger Nonnecke for her receipt of the 2007 Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE, Iowa Professor of the Year Award.

Recipients of the U.S. Professors of the Year Awards are acknowledged for their commitment to the betterment of education for future generations.

Dr. Nonnecke is a professor of horticulture at Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa, where she instructs introductory and advanced level courses, including principles of horticulture, sustainable and environmental horticulture, temperate fruit crop production and management, and integrated management of tropical crops. She conducts extensive research to develop new approaches in sustainable fruit systems that benefit producers, consumers, and the environment. In addition, Dr. Nonnecke has developed service-learning projects for her study abroad courses in order to enhance global cultural awareness. She also mentors other school faculty by facilitating seminars, workshops, and forums that allow participants to share knowledge and experiences.

Dr. Nonnecke has also received the USDA Excellence in Teaching Award and was selected as a senior faculty member in the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Teaching Partners Program. Dr. Nonnecke's goal while teaching is "to allow students to develop as life-long learners with the enthusiasm and skills to learn new things." She demonstrates a special passion in empowering her students to go above and beyond where her own research has taken her.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending and congratulating Dr. Gail Romberger Nonnecke. It is an honor to represent Dr. Nonnecke in Congress, and I wish her the best as she continues to conduct important research and make a positive impact in the lives of her students and faculty peers.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH TEXAS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ON HAVING THREE SCHOOLS
LISTED IN THE TOP 100 AMERICAN
HIGH SCHOOLS IN U.S.
NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the South Texas Independent School District for having 3 of its high schools listed among the 100 in the nation according to U.S. News and World Report.

The South Texas Independent School District shatters the myth that low income and minority students cannot achieve academic excellence. Eighty percent of the school district's students are of Hispanic heritage. Over 50

percent are eligible for free or reduced priced lunches. These outstanding high schools are open enrollment—they do not pick and choose among the best and brightest, rather they foster excellence in any student willing to make the commitment to a rigorous program of study.

Of the more than 18,000 public schools in the United States, the South Texas Independent School District placed 3 high schools: The Science Academy, the Business Education and Technology Academy, and the High School for Health Professions in the gold medal category for excellence in school performance on state tests and for success in providing college level coursework to all of their students. They demonstrate that high achievement is possible system-wide when you bring together the right leadership and community support.

I would like to commend the superintendent of South Texas Independent School, Dr. Marla Guerra and the president of the school board, Mr. Ernesto Alvarado for their leadership and stewardship of the school system. They have maintained and deepened the tradition of high achievement that has been the hallmark of the school district since the first magnet high school opened its doors in 1984.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Science Academy, led by Principal Michael Aranda and ranked number 23 in the nation.

Please join me in celebrating the national recognition of the Business Education and Technology Academy led by Principal Magdalena Gutierrez and ranked number 54 in the nation.

Let us cheer the accomplishment of the High School for Health Professions, led by Principal Barbara Heater and ranked number 64 in the nation.

The national recognition of the talent and potential of our young people in South Texas is long overdue. I commend South Texas Independent School District for nurturing tomorrow's leaders. I applaud our community of students, parents, and educators for demanding the best and exceeding expectations.

In closing I would like to share with you the secret of South Texas Independent School district's astounding success. They set high standards for academic and personal development and shared values. Their goal is that each graduate of South Texas Independent School district: is a compassionate, caring individual; has a passion for life-long learning; is an effective communicator; is a producer of quality work; is creative and curious; appreciates the differences in people; is a competent problem-solver; is a responsible and ethical citizen; strives for a balanced professional and home life; contributes to the community well-being through service; and is academically and occupationally skilled.

The Science Academy, the Business Education and Technology Academy, and the Health Professions High School in the South Texas Independent School District are among the best of the best high schools in the nation. They produce graduates who are ready, willing, and able to contribute to their communities. I congratulate them on winning national recognition and encourage them to keep up the good work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE
CHERYL B. MOSS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Judge Cheryl B. Moss, who is being honored as a Bench Trailblazer by the Bicolanos of Nevada and Filipino American California Expatriates Society of Las Vegas.

Judge Moss was admitted to the Nevada State Bar in 1997 and by 1999, while still in private practice, was awarded the Shining Star Award from the Clark County Pro Bono Project for her representation of low-income clients. This was just the beginning of the accomplishments she has had in her years in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2000, Judge Moss was elected to the District Court, Family Division. As a Judge, she has had the opportunity to work on issues of importance to her. One such issue is gambling addiction, and she has been intimately involved with the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling. Her passion to assist those with gambling addiction drove her to begin the pilot program on gambling assessments for parents involved with child custody cases. Judge Moss is also a member of many professional associations, including: The Nevada District Judges Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Civil Order Enforcement Task Committee.

In addition to her professional successes, Judge Moss has greatly enriched the community. She is actively involved in promoting education programs and volunteers her expertise as a judge in moot court and mock trial competitions at the high school and collegiate levels. Judge Moss also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Clark County Library.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Judge Cheryl B. Moss. She has served on the bench with honor and distinction and enriched the lives of countless people in the community through her activism and volunteer efforts. I congratulate her on this much deserved honor and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RESEARCHER AND
UNM VICE PRESIDENT TERRY
YATES

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, when Terry Yates began hunting the "Sin Nombre" virus, it was a vague and threatening disease that public health professionals could neither understand nor control. Yates and his collaborators traced the virus to its sources, revealed how it works, and saved lives. Because of his resolve to demystify the deadly illness, today we know how to prevent and treat what is now commonly known as hantavirus.

Yates's accomplishment won him awards, but for him it was just the job he wanted to do. From his perch at the University of New Mexico, he devoted his remarkable intellect and

passion to saving lives and helping students live their dreams.

He loved the thrill of intellectual pursuit. Colleagues noticed that he preferred being out in the field, in hot pursuit of a new discovery. Back on campus, he helped build UNM and connect the university to its community, and he helped a new generation of scientists to get into the field.

As we honor his life and contributions today, our thoughts are with Terry's wife Patsy and their sons. He will be missed by the UNM community and all of us who benefited from his intellect and commitment to helping others.

HONORING CHARLES G. WIMSATT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Wimsatt, an outstanding man with a long history of service to our country and to Kentucky. Mr. Wimsatt has been an active member of American Legion Post 121 in Bardstown, KY, for 24 years.

Mr. Wimsatt joined the Army in 1953, serving as a medic. He retired from the Army with the rank of corporal.

Mr. Wimsatt has made it a personal priority to serve his fellow veterans through his work with American Legion Post 121. He is currently in his fourth term as post commander. Under his command the post reached its 100 percent membership goal for the first time in 15 years. Mr. Wimsatt also directed recent facility renovations.

Beyond his service to the American Legion, Charles Wimsatt has found time to be active in many other worthy causes. He has played an integral part in fundraising for his local National Guard unit and is currently raising money for a VA medical facility in Germany. Mr. Wimsatt also served on the Black Mud Volunteer Fire Department for 46 years.

It is my privilege to honor Charles G. Wimsatt today for his service to our country and his tireless efforts on behalf of American Legion Post 121. Mr. Wimsatt has made a significant difference to his Old Kentucky Home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO IRENE PORTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Irene Porter, Executive Director of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association, for her 30 years of dedicated service to a prominent Nevadan trade organization that represents home building industry in Nevada.

For the past three decades, Irene has been committed to overseeing the SNHBA's programs and efforts. Most notably, Irene has lobbied on behalf of the association and home building industry at the Nevada State Legislature. She was recognized by the Legislature in 1991 as the "Lobbyist of the Year" and was later inducted into the Nevada Lobbyist Hall of

Fame in 1997. She has also built and maintained invaluable relationships with Federal, State, and local governments. In her post, she has managed two successful programs: The Housing Quality Trade Contractor Certification Program and the Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership programs. In a period of exponential growth, Irene has been steadfast in leading the industry and sustaining the stability and viability of the housing markets in Southern Nevada.

During her distinguished career as the Executive Director, Irene has championed numerous worthy causes. She has advocated for fair housing accommodation for persons with disabilities, which provide a valuable community service and contributes to the economic viability of the region. Irene has also been a leader on important community issues such as public schools and infrastructure building; and environmental issues such as dust control, and water and energy efficiency and conservation. Through her tireless service to her association and her community, she has been awarded with four National Association Excellence awards from the National Association of Home Builders and a Civic Hero Award from the Clark County School District.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Irene Porter. Her commitment to the community and professional successes are truly admirable and should serve as an example to us all. I am extremely fortunate to have been able to call Irene a friend for many years and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE PRO MUSKINGUM FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has been selected to receive the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award for Exemplary Practices to a Community Organization; and

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First is enhancing the quality of life in Muskingum County and are attracting families and businesses to the region; and

Whereas, areas such as family strengthening, promoting education, developing leaders within the community are being addressed by the organization; be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate you on receiving the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact the Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has had on the community.

TRIBUTE TO RHONDA BAKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rhonda Baker as the recipient of

the Stephen Tsai Award for Excellence in Autism Education and for her commitment and enthusiasm as a teacher in the Jefferson-Scranton School District in Iowa.

The Stephen Tsai Award recipient is selected by the Autism Society of Iowa and is presented at its annual fall conference. Sonya Wills, who has three sons with autism, nominated Rhonda for her exceptional work that positively touched each of their lives.

Rhonda's success in working with autistic children is attributed to her ability to build upon her students' strengths in order to increase their confidence. The confidence she instills in her students opens doors to endless growth and learning opportunities. Rhonda is gifted with the immense patience and determination required to give autistic students the individual attention they need and she diligently undertakes research to find the right teaching techniques for each unique case.

I congratulate Rhonda Baker on her well-deserved award, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many children in her community. It is a great honor to represent Rhonda in Congress, and I wish her continued success.

RECOGNIZING ELLIANA KAYE WOODWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to celebrate the birth of Elliana Kaye Woodward. Elliana was born on Monday, November 12, 2007, Veterans Day, to her proud parents, Ryan and Kristin Woodward of Stafford, Virginia. I find it very appropriate that Elliana was born on Veterans Day since her father is a patriot in the United States Marine Corps. Elliana entered the world at 2:21 p.m. at Mary Washington Hospital, Fredericksburg, Virginia, weighing a healthy 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 19½ inches long.

Elliana also has proud grandparents, Darrell and Susan Hall, of Sidney, Nebraska, and Cheryl and Duane Farmer of Sidney, Nebraska, as well as Bruce Woodward of Maryville, Missouri, to spoil her. Elliana is also the niece of Travis and Sarah Woodward of Bowie, Maryland; Nathan Woodward of Maryville, Missouri; Sarah Hall, Zach Hall and Zane Hall of Sidney, Nebraska.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating the birth of Elliana Kaye Woodward. I see great things in Elliana's future considering her parents' great emphasis on family values, faith and patriotism. I wish Elliana the best life has to offer.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ROBERT J. JOHNSTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Judge Robert J. Johnston of Nevada for his 20 years of honorable service as a United States Magistrate Judge.

Judge Johnston received his formal education from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. Upon graduation in 1977, he worked as a clerk for Judge Merlyn H. Hoyt for the Seventh Judicial District in Ely, Nevada. Mr. Johnston stayed and served White Pine County from 1979–1982 as the District Attorney while also maintaining a private practice.

Judge Johnston has been and remains an active member of the community while participating in a variety of professional and social organizations. He served on the Ninth Circuit Conference Committee, and participated in organizing three circuit conferences. Additionally, he served on the 9th Circuit Magistrate Judge Executive Board. Presently, Judge Johnston sits on the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts. He is also a member of the board for the Nevada Judicial Historical Society and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Passionate about the preservation of the history of Nevada, Judge Johnston was named the District of Nevada's court historian and has actively begun taking oral histories of his colleagues which will be transcribed and submitted to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Historical Society. Judge Johnston hopes that the personal interviews he has conducted will provide a more insightful understanding of these distinguished and honorable men and women.

Judge Johnston is a staple in the community and remains active in various local organizations. He is on the Board of Directors of the Las Vegas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and holds a leadership position within his church congregation. In his spare time, Judge Johnson enjoys running, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Honorable Judge Robert J. Johnston. His commitment and dedication to Nevada and his Nation should be applauded by all. I wish to congratulate him on 20 years as a United States Magistrate Judge and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF
THE ST. VINCENT DEPAUL COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the St. Vincent DePaul Community Health Clinic in Port Charlotte, Florida. This nonprofit organization took on the challenge of addressing the medical needs of the uninsured, underinsured and homeless in Charlotte County. The opening of the clinic was championed by Dr. Mark Asperilla and Dr. David Klein, and I would like to commend their hard work and dedication in seeing the clinic become a reality.

The clinic, which is located at 21450 Gibraltar in Port Charlotte, will open initially on a part time basis but hopes to achieve a goal of operating 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. The clinic will provide a wide range of healthcare services from general health check ups to prescription medication free of charge to needy residents.

St. Vincent DePaul is joined by the Charlotte County community which has come together and is working as a team to save lives and improve the quality of life of the poor and uninsured. Churches, schools, civic groups, fraternal organizations, hospitals, businesses, foundations and individuals have all worked together to ensure that Charlotte County has a health clinic that can effectively serve its residents. This community has dedicated itself to restoring human dignity by reaching out to provide a helping hand.

The blessing of the facility will be coordinated by Father Arthur Schute, spiritual advisor at Peace River Regional Medical Center, and a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will take place at noon today.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the creation of the St. Vincent DePaul Community Health Clinic.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, due to an inoperable beeper, I unfortunately missed recorded votes No. 1142 and No. 1143 on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 1142 and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 1143.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAYNA LYNN
AHERN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of my friend Dayna Lynn Ahern, whose passion for life was an inspiration.

Dayna was a native of Las Vegas who was a student of fashion merchandising at the Fashion Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prior to enrolling in the Fashion Institute, Danya had earned an Associates Degree from the prestigious Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts in Las Vegas.

Among Danya's many passions was traveling and music. These dual talents provided her with a number of unique opportunities, such as performing for the Pope at the Vatican and traveling with her high school choir to perform at various locals in Europe. Danya was also an active member of her Church, and had a strong sense of spirituality.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Danya. On March 30, 2006, Danya passed away but her enthusiasm and passion for life will serve as an inspiration for all who knew her. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy as a caring and motivated individual will live on.

TRIBUTE TO F. BRENT
LEATHERWOOD

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor F. Brent Leatherwood for his years of exemplary service in my office and to the constituents of the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida.

I first met Brent shortly after he graduated from college at the University of Central Florida. When I met Brent, he was working for former Congressman Bill McCollum. I was impressed by Brent's energy, his passion for the Constitution, his dedication to the principles of federalism, and his strong work ethic. Because of this, I hired him to be my Legislative Assistant when I was first elected in 2004. It was here that Brent honed his skills serving in my office.

Over the past few years, Brent has worked closely with members of Congress, his fellow staffers in the House and Senate, and others on various projects and legislative initiatives. One of the most important of these ventures Brent worked on was the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. Brent crafted a strategy and worked with members of Congress and congressional staff in order to ensure that many Constitutional safeguards were included in the final legislation. He brought a passion to this debate like no other and was one of my key advisers in this arena. Freedom and federalism is at the core of Brent's philosophical beliefs and he constantly reminded me of Ben Franklin's famous quote, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

In mid-2005, because of the skill and diligence he brought to the job, Brent was promoted to Senior Legislative Assistant. Brent has served in that capacity to this date.

Brent has always had a love, respect, and passion for the rule of law and he has now been presented with a tremendous opportunity to return to his native Tennessee and begin his formal study of the law. While I am excited for Brent to begin the next phase of his life, make no mistake about it, he will be greatly missed. He has been a valuable member and an irreplaceable part of my team.

I have valued his advice over the last few years. And I am proud to call him my friend. On behalf of the Fourteenth Congressional District, I'd like to thank Brent for his years of service to the people of Southwest Florida and indeed our nation. He is a true patriot and we wish him all the best for a lifetime of happiness and great success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BLYTHE
ANN O'SULLIVAN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to rise today to honor the life and service of an exceptional young Peace Corps Volunteer Blythe Ann O'Sullivan of Bloomington, Illinois.

Illinois. On December 6, 2007, Blythe passed away while serving the people of the Republic of Suriname in South America.

After graduating from Bradley University, she decided to join the Peace Corps.

Blythe was sworn in as a Volunteer on August 3, 2006, after 4 months of intensive training. Leaving her loved ones and comfortable life in the United States behind, Blythe bravely took on the challenge of sharing her knowledge and expertise with the Brokopondo people.

As a small business and community development advisor, Blythe dedicated herself to improving the operations of a local water project and building a community center for the women in the village where she was staying.

While serving in Suriname, Blythe recognized how extraordinarily blessed we are in the United States, saying "I am so humbled by the challenges the Suriname villagers must conquer day after day. Here, each waking moment must be spent satisfying basic needs." Blythe's dedication to improving the lives of others is an example for us all.

Blythe's ready smile, compassionate care for the people of Suriname and efforts to bring them hope have affected countless lives. Blythe's efforts will forever be a tribute to her life and service.

Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my deepest sympathies to Blythe's parents, John and Joan, and the entire O'Sullivan family. They are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in mourning the loss of an extraordinary young woman, Blythe Ann O'Sullivan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
CHESTO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Chesto for his support of America's fallen heroes.

Mr. Chesto has a long history of serving his community in Las Vegas, Nevada. He moved from Biloxi, Mississippi in 1955 and began the 4th grade at C.P. Squires Elementary School in Las Vegas. He then attended Tom Williams Elementary, J.D. Smith Middle School, and Rancho High School. After graduating from Rancho High School, Robert enrolled in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas majoring in Music. In 1970, after graduating from UNLV, Robert was drafted into the United States Army where he served on active duty in the Nevada Army National Guard until 1990. In 1976 he began teaching in the Clark County School District.

After retiring from the Army National Guard as a Captain, Robert went back to UNLV to

pursue a degree in Education. In 2000, Robert began as Principal at his own high school, Rancho. As the Principal of Rancho High School, Robert is dedicated to honoring those who have served their country in the Armed Services. Rancho High School has become an "All American High School" with over 250 American flags decorating the school. Mr. Chesto has also dedicated himself to remembering Rancho's history by incorporating a "Wall of Honor" for the 23 Rancho graduates who were killed in action during the Vietnam War.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Robert Chesto. He has not only served his country in times of war, but also committed himself to the education of our youth. His continuing dedication to his country and to the remembrance of those who have fallen serves as an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO OLA COPELAND

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the House to Ola Copeland, an outstanding citizen of my district who recently passed away in Gaffney South Carolina, a place she called home for her entire life.

Mrs. Copeland was known best for 15 years of service on the Cherokee County Board of Education. She believed in education, and as a life-long citizen, knew Cherokee County well. Her colleagues recognized her ability, and elected her Chairwoman of the Cherokee County Board of Education, a post she held from 2003 until the day she died. During her tenure on the board, she chaired the Curriculum, Budget, and Special Needs Committees, served on the Maintenance, Property and Grounds Committee, and acted as the Board's Parliamentarian and Legislative Contact.

Despite a lengthy battle with kidney disease, the disease that ultimately claimed her life, Mrs. Copeland worked tirelessly to ensure that Cherokee County students had the best in education. To accommodate her dialysis schedule, the Cherokee County School Board reset its meeting. Just as kidney disease did not stop her serving on the board of education, it also did not prevent her from being a friendly and familiar face at school functions. The day before she was admitted to the hospital with her last illness, she attended the Gaffney High Homecoming Assembly.

Mrs. Copeland was deeply involved in her church, served on numerous boards, and was a member of various organizations that help make Cherokee County a better place. She was an organizer of Theta Beta Gamma Sorority, Inc. and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. As if serving on the county

school board was not enough, she also served as an officer in the Rocky Mountain Red Hat Society, Friends of the Cherokee County Public Library, and on the board of Piedmont Community Action. She was involved in Communities in Schools, the Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Council, First Steps Board of Directors, and the Renaissance Committee at Gaffney High School.

Ms. Copeland graduated from Granard High School and earned a business degree from Limestone College in Gaffney. She is survived by two sons, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren. Her life was cut short and she died before her time, but if we measure life not by how long we live, but by how well, Ola Copeland lived a long, full life. She left her community better than she found it, and left her fellow citizens a legacy of service and achievement, including her sterling example of what life in a democracy is all about.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT P.
ELLIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Robert P. Ellis and his dedication to the Southern Nevada community.

Robert "Bobby" Ellis is the President and CEO of B&E Auto Auction, an independently-owned salvage company. It was recently announced that B&E will sell their assets to a national company, a decision that should enhance their ability to serve customers' needs in Nevada.

Bobby also founded the Coalition of Independent Salvage Pools of America in 2000, a partnership of independently owned salvage companies who make it their mission to provide reliable service, competitive pricing that benefits insurance companies, and commitment to their individual local communities and state.

Bobby proved his devotion to education by establishing the Robert and Sandy Ellis Scholarship Fund for students at Nevada State College in 2004. Robert and his wife believed that this scholarship endowment would not only help students obtain a college education, but would help the future economic growth and development of Southern Nevada. In addition to his generous donations to educational institutions, Robert has truly embraced the spirit of philanthropy and has greatly contributed to his surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Bobby P. Ellis. His steadfast loyalty to the state of Nevada is an example to us all, and I wish him continued success with all his future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Ondray T. Harris, of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, David W. Hagy, of Texas, to be Director of the National Institute

of Justice, Cynthia Dyer, of Texas, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice, and Nathan J. Hochman, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice, and Scott M. Burns, of Utah, to be Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jon Wellinghoff, of Nevada, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

3:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Steven H. Murdock, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce.

SD-342

DECEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Jeffrey William Runge, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, both of the Department of Home-

land Security, and Steven H. Murdock, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Mark R. Filip, of Illinois, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, focusing on truck driver hours-of-service (HOS) rules and truck safety.

SR-253

11 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on Kosovo, focusing on future challenges.

S-407, Capitol

DECEMBER 20

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert A. Sturgell, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and Simon Charles Gros, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Transportation.

SR-253