

fight for the working men and women of America who get dirt under their fingernails rather than paper cuts on their pinkies. Dan tirelessly reminded us that American prosperity, national defense, and world leadership depend on the working men and women who operate the drill rigs, mine metals and minerals, harvest trees and crops, raise livestock, and pull the levers and press the buttons that control the dams responsible for irrigating the land and powering our communities.

God has blessed our country with a bounty of resources, and Dan was always ready with a sermon to remind us that His gifts are there for us to use wisely. Dan's wise words will not be forgotten.

While hiring Dan was one of the best decisions I've made in my 35 years in Washington, I think Dan would agree that coming to work for me was the most important decision of his life. After all, it's where he met his beautiful wife, Pam, the young lady who lured the long-haired college student into my office 29 years ago. I would be remiss if I did not also thank Pam Kish for everything she has done over the years, not only as a former staffer, but as a loving wife.

The State of Alaska and the Nation as a whole owe a debt of gratitude to Dan Kish for his 29 years of service, and this House is a better place because of his good work. Ronald Reagan once wrote, "Some people work an entire lifetime and wonder if they've ever made a difference." I know I speak for many in this body when I say there is no question that Dan Kish has made a tremendous difference during his tenure and will be sorely missed.

While Dan is moving on, his impact on and contribution to our work in Congress is timeless. I can think of no one who is more widely respected and admired for his intrinsic understanding of and devotion to the things that make this Nation so great.

I am forever grateful that Dan's path crossed with mine that day, 29 years ago so, while I stand here today honoring Daniel V. Kish for his years of service, his departure is bittersweet. Words cannot express my personal gratitude to Dan for his work, his counsel, and most importantly, his friendship. Thank you, Dan. I wish you and Pam the best in the next chapter of your life together.

RECOGNIZING RYAN KEITH BUEHRIG FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. I proudly pause to recognize Ryan K. Buehrig, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan K. Buehrig for his

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING COBB COUNTY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the 175th anniversary of the founding of Cobb County, GA. On December 3, 2007, residents of Cobb County came together to celebrate a community that has managed to remain united through many trying times. It was the spirit of community that held Cobb together after many bloody battles of the Civil War took place here, or when the murder of Leo Frank in 1913 threatened to pull the community apart. This deep reverence for community is one of the primary reasons that Marietta, one of Cobb's largest cities, was the first city in Georgia to be awarded the All American Cities Award by the National Civic League.

Today, Cobb County continues to meet the challenges that face our Nation with strength, resilience and innovation. Several cities in Cobb County have partnered with cities around the world, developing trade relationships that keep Cobb County and Georgia relevant in the global economy. Cobb County is proud to be the home of Home Depot's headquarters as well as several other companies that keep Georgia's, as well as America's, economy strong. As our Nation has grown more diverse, so has Cobb County. Cobb County has demonstrated how much progress can come from people working together as neighbors and partners rather than focusing on those things that keep communities divided.

Cobb County is a place that all Americans can be proud of and look to as an example of what every community should strive to emulate. I am proud to represent Cobb and commit these statements to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so generations can reflect on what has been, is, and will continue to be an exemplary community.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ALGERIA

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, otherwise called the Helsinki Commission, I rise to introduce a resolution which condemns in the strongest terms, the terrorist bombing of the Algerian Supreme Court and United Nations offices in Algiers, Algeria on December 11, 2007.

These deplorable attacks upon civilian targets took the lives of 37 people, including 17 United Nations employees, and injured numerous others. As a consequence of the destruction of the United Nations Development Pro-

gramme office and the damage to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees office in Algiers, the capacity of the world body to carry out its operations in Algiers has been seriously diminished.

We subsequently learned that the December 11 attacks were the work of al-Qaeda in the Maghreb, a North African affiliate of al-Qaeda. This same organization claimed responsibility for several previous attacks in Algeria and Morocco, using tactics similar to those employed by their al-Qaeda brethren in Iraq, where they indiscriminately wreak upon civilians and military targets. These inhumane attacks are intended to sow insecurity and divisiveness, and, as in Iraq, can impede progress in the social and economic spheres.

The attacks illuminate al-Qaeda's determination to continue to spread its destructive aims globally by perpetuating violence against innocent civilians. But they should also reinforce the imperative of the community of civilized nations to stamp out terrorism in all its forms.

Algeria is a Mediterranean Partner of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), within whose ambit the Helsinki Commission carries out its mandate. The OSCE has among its highest priorities a commitment to combating terrorism, and the Algerian Government has been unwavering in its efforts to defeat terrorism, a goal that the United States shares.

Through our recent experience with terrorism, Americans understand the pain now suffered by the Algerian people for the loss of so many innocent lives and the injury of numerous others. Today, we affirm our support for the people and Government of Algeria in their continued struggle against extremism and violence.

That is why, together with my good friend Congressman BILL DELAHUNT, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, I am introducing today's resolution, which condemns the senseless acts of violence against the Algerian people and the United Nations on December 11. This resolution also expresses our profound sympathy for the victims of the bombings; the support of the U.S. House of Representatives for the Algerian people in their continued efforts to secure peace for their nation; and support for the Algerian authorities in bringing the perpetrators of the attacks to justice. Chairman DELAHUNT's commitment to advancing peace, human rights, and security are laudable and long-standing. I am deeply proud to work with him on this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA PRESSLEY WOODS

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of South Carolina's own, Sylvia Pressley Woods, affectionately known as the "Queen of Soul Food." In August of 1962, Sylvia put her charismatic personality to the test and purchased the restaurant, which then was only a small luncheonette, from her own boss.

Almost 50 years later, Sylvia's has become the landmark of 126th St. and Lenox Avenue and the one place where everyone knows they can get a taste of authentic Southern Soul food. The restaurant also serves to remind the community's residents that hard work, determination, and love of family can lead to success.

Sylvia's Restaurant, a Harlem soul-food landmark, attracts busloads of tourists from all over the United States and around the world. Sylvia's is a frequent stop for celebrities and politicians. With the launch of a line of prepared supermarket foods, the empire of restaurateur Sylvia Woods has expanded to touch the culinary lives of people all over the country.

Woods herself has a remarkable story that encapsulates much of 20th-century African-American history. She was born Sylvia Pressley in Hemingway, South Carolina, on February 2, 1926. Her father, Van Pressley, died three days after she was born from the after effects of chemical-weapons injuries he sustained while fighting in World War I. When she was three her mother departed for New York City in search of a chance to make money that would put her family on a solid financial footing.

Woods recalled with affection the warmth and closeness of her rural southern community. Nevertheless, she has painful memories. "I didn't like any part of farm life," she told Nation's Restaurant News. "I didn't understand why people would not let me drink out of the same water fountain, but they would trust me to cook for them and to take care of their dearest things, their babies." Her grandfather was hanged after being wrongly accused of participating in a grocery-store robbery when her mother was just an infant.

Sylvia Woods worked in a Queens hat factory for a time, as well, but a turning point came in 1954 when a cousin told Woods that she planned to quit her job at a lunch counter at 126th Street and Lenox Avenue, around the corner from the famed Apollo Theater and within walking distance of the Woods's 131st Street apartment. Woods, who had rarely even seen the inside of a restaurant, took the job with trepidation and without any thought of ever running one herself. But she impressed the owner, a fellow South Carolinian, with her energy. When he ran into financial trouble with an investment in a black resort in upstate New York, he offered to sell her the restaurant. After her mother took out a \$20,000 loan backed by her family farm, Sylvia Woods became the owner of Johnson's Luncheonette in 1962.

With four children, Van, Bedelia, Kenneth, and Crizette, born between 1949 and 1967, Woods had little time to think of expansion, but Sylvia's became known far and wide for its fried chicken, collard greens, peach pies, and other soul-food standards. The restaurant moved two doors down from its original location in 1968 and gradually grew to occupy most of the Harlem block on which it rests. Sylvia's now can seat 450 and boasts a next-door catering operation.

Diners suggested that Sylvia's open new branches in other cities, but Woods and her son, Van decided on a different course—one inspired by the customers who would come in at holiday time with empty jars and ask whether they could buy Sylvia's barbecue sauce.

Launched in 1992 and featuring a picture of Woods herself on the label, the Sylvia's

Queen of Soul Food line of canned and bottled foods impressed Pathmark supermarket CEO Jim Donald. He told Crain's New York Business that "Sylvia and Van Woods run their company with their heart and soul." Sylvia's hot sauces, candied yams, mustard greens, kidney beans, and 13 other items are available in supermarkets nationwide.

Sylvia's Soul Food cookbook was also published in 1992. It was followed in 1999 by the more extensive Sylvia's Family Soul Food Cookbook, which included Woods's personal reminiscences and numerous family photographs along with recipes gathered in a giant South Carolina family cook-off.

The good reputation of the "Sylvia's" name has put Sylvia Woods's cookery on a path to growth, with the restaurant's many admirers hoping to get in on the action. Additional full-service restaurants are planned for the future, increasing the Sylvia's stable of 200 employees and bringing the soul-food creations of Hemingway, South Carolina, to even more American diners. With all four Woods children involved with the business, it represents a family tradition of the best—and tastiest—kind.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring South Carolina's own, mother, restaurateur and enterprising businesswoman, Mrs. Sylvia Woods.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1585,  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1585, the Conference Report on Defense Authorization Bill.

As we approach the Holiday Season and we go back to our families, we cannot forget that not everyone is so fortunate.

Our loyal soldiers are serving proudly and not all will be with their loved ones.

I want to speak directly to them and to their families in my District because these are the true faces of the war.

This bill supports our service members by increasing military pay across the board, because the empty stomachs of a family hurt no matter where you are.

This bill protects our soldiers by providing the equipment needed, because today—our soldiers deserve the best there is.

This bill includes the Wounded Warrior Act which reinforces the fact that the tragic conditions at Walter Reed must end.

I ask my colleagues to not ignore the realities of the war and review their priorities—we must give our troops on the frontline what they need and rightfully deserve.

VETERANS GUARANTEED BONUS  
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3793, the Veterans Guaranteed

ted Bonus Act of 2007. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation because I believe the men and women who bravely serve our country deserve everything they are promised when they sign up for the military. This bill ensures those forced to leave military service because of a combat injury will receive the bonuses they are entitled to. Moreover, this bill recognizes that the men and women injured in battle, in Iraq and Afghanistan, would much rather be with their brothers and sisters in the field than in a hospital nursing their wounds. The least we can do is afford them with the benefits, pay, and assistance to which they are already entitled.

I would like to thank Congressman ALTMIRE for his tireless work on this legislation. It is a fine example of how the Democratic Congress is keeping its promises to our dedicated men and women valiantly fighting on behalf of our country. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act.

RECOGNIZING LINDA KITAZAKI

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, heroes are people who devote their lives to serving others and making our world a better place in which to live. Linda Kitazaki was one of those people.

Linda was the executive director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving Southeast Texas. I knew her for over 20 years in my work as a judge in Texas. She was an advocate in every sense of the word who worked passionately to fulfill MADD's vision to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. Those who know her best describe her as compassionate, powerful, gracious and inspirational.

Linda became affiliated with MADD back in 1988 because of a near fatal crash involving teenagers who were drinking and driving. The situation was especially troublesome to Linda because the teenagers had been given alcohol by a parent. Because of her dedication to making a difference, she became the Administrator for the Harris County Chapter of MADD.

With the assistance of Penny Ellsworth, who joined MADD because her son was killed by a drunk driver, the two reorganized the Harris County Chapter.

MADD Harris County became the Southeast Texas Region Affiliate Office. With Linda at the helm, the small office grew to serve 10 counties and became one of the most prominent within the organization. Not only does the office provide services to the victims of drunk drivers, it also conducts outreach and education in order to prevent future tragedies. The idea of preventing young people from making bad decisions that would impact them for the rest of their lives truly resonated with Linda.

As a result of Linda's leadership, her MADD office became very strong and has 10 staff members and countless volunteers. She started new programs and initiatives. She was considered a maverick in new fundraising methods in the Houston area which were then replicated for national success in the organization. Her passion and commitment won her Employee of the Year recognition.