EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in mourning of a most distinguished colleague, a champion for America, a lifelong survivor, and a kind friend, Representative TOM LANTOS.

He stood at the near-perilous brink of history. Born to Jewish parents in Budapest, Hungary, he joined the Hungarian underground—at not yet 17—after the Nazi occupation and twice escaped from forced labor camp. He was beaten. His mother, much of his family, and the family of his high school sweetheart-turned-wife were killed.

He transformed tragedy into triumph. After earning an American education and raising a family, he became the only Holocaust survivor elected to the U.S. Congress in 1980. Three years later, he had founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. And last year, he became the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

He was a man of steadfast principle. He was one of five members of Congress—at not yet 80—arrested in a protest outside the Sudanese Embassy, in opposition to the genocide in Darfur. He trumpeted the causes of civil liberties and human rights with a consistent, measured voice, having survived such great evil and wanting to spare the world that suffering.

His soul, his convictions, his grit and determination—as genuine at age 17 as 80—remained uncompromising, unimpeachable.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD E. MUNGER

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the distinguished life of BG Edward E. Munger of Fresno, CA, who lost his brave battle with cancer on February 11 at the age of 68.

General Munger lived an extraordinary life of service to his country, community and family. He served more than 3 decades in the California National Guard, and served in Washington, DC under Presidents Nixon, Carter and Reagan. General Munger retired on October 30, 1990 after completing 33 years of service to our country.

General Munger's love for his country was also evident in the service he gave to his local community. He served as a Fresno County Reserve Deputy Sheriff for several years on the Power Board Squadron; was a member and at his death the president of I.R.O. Soararsis, a support organization for Kings Canyon National Park; was on the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital Central California; on the Rotary Club of Fresno Board of Directors; on the Fresno County Planning Commission; and on the Fresno County grand jury. Even being diagnosed with cancer could not prevent him from public service, as he continued to serve the community as chairman of California's 21st Congressional District Military Academy nomination committee.

General Munger inspired all of those he knew, including myself. He was a man full of character and integrity who treated all human beings with dignity and generosity. Munger helped thousands of young people achieve goals that otherwise might not have been possible. From simple guidance to providing a stable home environment or providing free rent to a student in his apartment building, he asked only that they "pay it forward" by helping others when they are in a position to do so.

General Munger is survived by his wife, the former Tamsen Nichols, whom he married 37 years ago, and their adult children, Edward Earl and Eleanor Elizabeth of the San Francisco Bay area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 43, 44, and 45, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, February 12, 2008, I was unable to cast my vote on Suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 954 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 43 on passing H. Res. 954, Honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008, I would have voted "aye."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH–

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2008 theme—Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism. Dr. Woodson's life and words remind us, as Americans, that in order to continue to move forward, we must take the time to reflect on the past.

The theme for this year's Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism, is a reminder that in striving for a greater society, we must examine the past. A brilliant author, publisher, and historian, Dr. Woodson understood that history was much more than facts on a page, but rather a detailed account and interpretation of the struggles and achievements of society as a whole. It was this belief that motivated Dr. Woodson to author many books and publish many articles on the outstanding contributions of so many proud and courageous African Americans.

Dr. Woodson's belief in the importance of historical study played a critical role in preserving the rich history of African Americans throughout the United States. His efforts led to the foundation of Negro History Week, which would later become Black History Month. His writings and teachings encourage not only African Americans, but all Americans, to reflect on, become educated about, and treasure these outstanding efforts. Dr. Woodson has also been seen by many other historians as a true inspiration. In the First Congressional District, I am proud to represent organizations such as the Interfaith Federation of Northwest Indiana, under the leadership of Executive Director Patricia Jackson, and the Gary Frontiers Service Club, under the leadership of President Oliver J. Gilliam, which have carried on such important ideals, reiterating the need for merging cultural beliefs and tradition and coming together to reflect on the past in seeking to improve the future.

It is the efforts of organizations like the Interfaith Federation and the Gary Frontiers Service Club that allow us to reflect on what makes the United States of America so special. Nowhere else in the world do you find such an integrated society. While the United States is made up of people from so many different cultural, religious, social, and ideological backgrounds, it is our freedom and our ability to share our backgrounds with each other that is the true testament to the American way of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Interfaith Federation, the Gary Frontiers Service Club and the many organizations throughout the United States that continue to preserve the African American heritage for all Americans. Through their words and teachings, these honorable individuals and organizations remind us all of the struggles and accomplishments that African Americans have made to lead us to where we are as a Nation today, while reminding us that there is still progress to be made.

RECOGNIZING THE ADVANTAGE THAT LOW INCOME TAXPAYERS WILL TAKE OF THE EITC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support of the EITC, a refundable tax credit that reduces or eliminates taxes that low-income married or single working people pay, and also frequently operates as a wage subsidy for low-income workers. I am expressing my hope that taxpayers with incomes of less than $39,783 will take advantage of the EITC, since this can result in a refund of more than $4,700 for the eligible taxpayers. The EITC is one of the largest anti-