

Legislation, therefore, has become necessary and urgent as the Butterfly Pavilion is set to open on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian has previously charged fees for films and shows, such as IMAX films, the National Air and Space Museum's Planetarium, and the National Zoo's Christmas Light special, the Butterfly Pavilion marks the first time admission fees are charged for a permanent exhibit.

The Smithsonian Institution had an estimated 24.2 million visitors in 2007. The huge number of visitors who come to the Smithsonian's 17 museums and art galleries shows that there are untapped sources of revenue from appreciative Americans and others if the Smithsonian had a first-rate private fundraising effort similar to that of the great museums in this country and worldwide. Our previously introduced bill, H.R. 4098, The Smithsonian Modernization Act of 2007, addresses the Smithsonian's shallow fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian Board of Regents from a board almost half of whom are public officials to a board consisting solely of private sector citizens with greater fundraising capacity and experience.

Today the Smithsonian's traditional free access to exhibits is under attack, chiefly because of the \$2 billion dollar infrastructure backlog. However, the fundraising capability of the Smithsonian infrastructure is clear in the recent opening of the National Portrait Gallery, according to Congressional Research Service (CRS) RL 33560, donors contributed funds for the new auditorium and roof over the courtyard.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, not admission fees, provides the most realistic vehicle to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. The Smithsonian has long prided itself on "free access" according to the CRS. Admission fees can bring only a token amount. Admission fees are not the answer for American taxpayers, who have already paid through the 70% that the federal government already contributes to this public institution. Federal taxpayers don't expect to pay again through a admission fee to a federally financed institution.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5268, TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY INCREASE IN FEDERAL MEDICAID ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM TO STATES

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, last week I, with my colleagues Representatives FRANK PALLONE and PETER KING, introduced H.R. 5268, legislation that would provide immediate fiscal relief to States through Medicaid. The States of our Nation and the healthcare safety net are simultaneously facing a crisis. This is not the time for the Federal Government to turn its back. In addition to the broader economic stimulus package that we have approved, it is urgent that we provide States with resources to meet growing healthcare demands.

In 2003, during the last economic downturn, the Federal Government provided fiscal relief to States by increasing Federal Medicaid payments during five quarters. The increased Federal Medicaid payments helped States meet increased demand for Medicaid coverage and successfully fought off many additional and more extensive reductions in healthcare for poor children, the disabled, pregnant women and the elderly who depend on Medicaid health coverage. If the economic downturn continues, States will once again be forced to deny people Medicaid coverage and or reduce Medicaid payments to healthcare providers unless some relief is provided.

If we do not act, the decreased ability to provide health care could mean even more job losses, further exacerbating the economy. According to a 2005 study, for every \$1 million of State funds invested in Medicaid, 33 new jobs and \$1.23 million in new wages are generated in a year. In 2003, a Republican Congress and President agreed to the temporary increase in Medicaid payments. It was enacted through a number of bipartisan votes. We must once again come together to deliver as we did before. We need to move quickly to strengthen Medicaid, before the effects of a slowing economy cause people who need health care to be turned away.

HONORING ROB COGORNO

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob Cogorno on his 25 years of service to this body.

Rob, I am one of the new folks around here, but in my relatively brief tenure, I have come to appreciate and have great respect for all the floor staff who keep this place running as smoothly as possible . . . especially in a room filled with wall-to-wall politicians.

You've been a great quarterback for the floor staff, and I wish you all the best. Thank you for your service.

HONORING RETIRING WEST SEN- ECA TOWN COUNCILMAN CHRIS- TOPHER OSMANSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Christopher Osmanski, retiring councilman from the great town of West Seneca.

I have known Chris and his family for many years and I am proud to honor his dedication to effective public service for the residents of the Town of West Seneca. Few public officials love their town the way in which Christopher Osmanski does, and his public acts have always had the intention of making life in the town of West Seneca better for those so fortunate enough to live there.

While Chris's official service has come to an end, it is a virtual certainty that he will remain active in local civic affairs. That is a good thing, for the town of West Seneca is better

for the active public service of individuals like Christopher Osmanski.

I want to thank you, Madam Speaker, for offering me this opportunity to honor the public service of retiring Town of West Seneca Councilman Christopher Osmanski, and I hope that you will join me in offering to Mr. Osmanski this Congress's best wishes of good fortune and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING W.D. LEWIS FOR
"CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize community leader W.D. Lewis for being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Chandler-Brownsboro Chamber of Commerce.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean war, Mr. Lewis occupies his time today volunteering in his community. In addition to being an active member of the Kiwanis Club, Mr. Lewis mentors children at Brownsboro Intermediate School and helps the court appointed special advocates provide Christmas gifts to children. Last year, he raised enough money to give Bibles to 192 children.

Since moving to Brownsboro over two decades ago, Mr. Lewis has been a member of Leagueville Baptist Church and the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Mr. Lewis for generously offering his time and talents to serve his community and for being selected "Citizen of the Year."

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Congressman TOM LANTOS, our beloved friend and colleague, who passed away on Monday morning from esophagus cancer.

Believers in human rights and oppressed peoples around the world have suffered a terrible blow with the loss of TOM LANTOS. He was a tireless champion for those suffering oppression and violence and discrimination, and the world is quite simply a more painful place with his passing. Every time a human rights issue came up on the House floor, TOM was always there, speaking out for the voiceless.

TOM's experiences escaping Nazi concentration camps twice as a teenager and losing most of his immediate family in the carnage of the Holocaust cultivated in him a unique sensitivity to suffering. His compassion

and willingness to stand up for what is right was a constant inspiration to me, both in our work in the House of Representatives and in our co-chairmanship of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He was a hero in the eyes of so many, and his loss will be felt acutely by all of us.

I extend my most sincere condolences to TOM's family, and I encourage my colleagues to take up the torch with which TOM illuminated the world's darkest corners.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF ELEPHANT BUTTE

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great accomplishments of leaders of Elephant Butte, New Mexico. Mayor Bob Barnes, Councilor Adrienne Podlesny, and Councilor John Van Gundy truly care about the city of Elephant Butte. Each proudly served since the city was incorporated and are so dedicated they worked out of their homes until the city had an office.

Councilor John Van Gundy served on a planning board for the first 2 years after the city was incorporated then became elected to the council and has now served 8 years.

Both Mayor Barnes and Councilor Podlesny have both worked for the city for 10 years, and Mayor Barnes in fact became the first and only mayor of Elephant Butte.

Through their tireless work and dedication, these individuals have made countless contributions to the community of Elephant Butte. Their legacy of diligent work includes improving city parks, developing a waste water system, and incorporating the city. Other accomplishments include widening and paving city streets, building an addition to the fire department, and numerous other improvements.

The progress and growth of Elephant Butte can be attributed to the diligent hard work of these 3 individuals. I know the people of Elephant Butte have gained many more opportunities and are now able to live better lives because of the leadership and hard work of Mayor Barnes and Councilors Van Gundy and Podlesny. I want to congratulate each of them for their achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future.

HONORING STANLEY RONDA, JR.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley Ronda, Jr., of Toledo, Ohio.

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to the long life of a good, patient, and kind man, Stanley Ronda, Jr. He lived his years in service to his family, friends, and our Toledo community. Coming from the working class and of Polish-American heritage, he

graduated college in architecture in an era when that was a rare achievement for a family of their means. Stan was a path breaker.

He was always generous with his company, his conversation and his artistic creations. He greeted every person with a broad smile and a laugh. He was an engaging conversationalist and a patient teacher, too. He labored to transfer his considerable skills in calligraphy, architectural drafting, and model building to all who expressed an interest.

For decades, he worked for the City of Toledo in the Toledo Lucas County Planning Commissions, from where he retired. I can still see him bent over his light table in the Huron Building preparing the architectural and subdivision drawings for cases pending before the Commission. He reported to work every day, always wearing a white, long-sleeved shirt and held standards of military precision.

Once, when we worked together on a project, we were assigned to field check and map all of Monclova Township, Ohio. That is 16,000 acres. Stan and I worked on that for days. I hold many precious memories of Stan during that laborious effort.

Stan never asked anything for himself. He was always creating lovely-original works for others such as mailings at the holidays or special occasions. Each was carefully drawn and colored with his signature logo was at the lower left corner—a miniature version of him sitting at his drawing table. At Christmas, his logo would wear a tiny Santa hat. On his own initiative, Stan drew many beautiful renderings of landmark structures in Toledo. When I was elected to office, I commissioned Stan to do a rendering of historic churches of Toledo. He gladly accepted and this framed achievement always hangs in our Congressional office.

Though Stan became more fragile with years, he never, ever complained. He always welcomed a visitor with that same open smile. Stan revered the time he witnessed developments of downtown Toledo like the Maumee River Crossing Bridge, the new Ferry Landing, the future Marina District and the Mud Hens. He was overjoyed that day to view his hometown, to which he had dedicated his working years, building forward.

May God welcome Stan home; a good and faithful servant. May He shower him royally with blessings into eternity and bestow upon him a loving peace.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. HARRY JEFFREY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the birth of Dr. Harry Palmer Jeffrey, Jr.

Dr. Jeffrey obtained his bachelor's degree at Dartmouth College in 1959, his master's degree at Ohio State University in 1961 and his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1973.

In Congress, he worked for Representatives John Heinz, Paul Schenck, William McCulloch and Senator John Bricker. He served in the White House for the Lyndon Johnson and

Richard Nixon Administrations, and met every President of the United States from Herbert Hoover to Bill Clinton.

Dr. Jeffrey ran for office twice. He won the Ohio State GOP primary for the State Legislature in 1960, but lost in the general election. And in 1976, he unsuccessfully sought the GOP nomination for California's 40 District, which I now serve.

He was one of my professors when I was in college at California State University, Fullerton. He taught U.S. history and we used to debate on many issues, which helped to form my political views. He was also the faculty sponsor of my College Republican Club. We stayed in touch for all these years. In fact just recently, I visited his class at Soka University.

Dr. Jeffrey passed away November 4, 2007, and is survived by his wife, Mee-Young, his son, Robert, his step-daughter, Clara, sisters, Julie & Susu, and grandchildren, Marieke & Lex.

Please join me in remembering and honoring Dr. Jeffrey for a life spent dedicated to his family and community.

HONORING RETIRING CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN SUPERVISOR JAMES J. JANKOWIAK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James J. Jankowiak, who concluded decades of faithful public service by serving one year as Supervisor of the most populous town in the 27th Congressional District, the great town of Cheektowaga.

Jim Jankowiak is, above almost anything else, a man of the people. Jim is a regular guy who worked hard, loved his family and his community, and did everything he could to give back to that community he loved so well. From his career beginnings in the highway garage to his career as the most effective Parks Commissioner in the history of Erie County government, Jim Jankowiak consistently led by example, and the taxpayers of each respective jurisdiction within which he served were better for it.

Jim's service on the local level—first as Chairman of the town's Democratic Committee and later as a Councilman and finally Supervisor, demonstrates clearly his love for the town in which he lived his life. Where I come from—in South Buffalo, NY—we like to say that we're a community of neighborhoods; South Cheektowaga is no different. Differentiated as it is by parishes or by fire districts, it's still a collection of neighborhoods, and Jim Jankowiak is, at heart, a kid from the neighborhood—and he never forgot from whence he came. That's high praise.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring and congratulating Jim Jankowiak upon the conclusion of his official service to the taxpayers of the town of Cheektowaga. I know that you join me and the rest of our colleagues in wishing Jim, his wife Donna and their entire family the very best of good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.