

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS FROM CLOUDCROFT MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize young scientists from the Cloudcroft Middle and High schools in my district who recently competed against over 3,000 students from across New Mexico in the New Mexico Science Olympiad. Each school placed third in the overall team awards. Leading to their third place finishes, these students from Cloudcroft were also recognized in almost all of the 40 different science categories. These categories range from those we are most familiar with like biology and chemistry, to the newer fields in science and technology like robotics and forensic science.

Just like the students before them who competed and raised the bar, these two teams from Cloudcroft have risen to the challenge, and in so doing, push future students to even greater success. As these teams continue to push the envelope and inspire other students, I have full confidence that future teams from Cloudcroft will soon find themselves at the national competition held each year in Washington, DC.

Among the highlights of Cloudcroft's showing at the NM Science Olympiad are the achievements of two seniors, Sean Henry and Ann Birch. These students received highly sought-after scholarships to the New Mexico Institute of Technology. Only 10 of these awards are set aside for top scoring students. I am pleased their talents have been recognized and wish them the best of luck as they continue their education.

New Mexico has a rich history of conducting cutting-edge science research and development, and these students embody the innovative spirit that we associate with science and technology in New Mexico. These talented students will play an increasingly important role in our society. They are the future of science and technology in our State and I am impressed with their accomplishments. On behalf of the people of the Second District of New Mexico, I congratulate these students, their teachers, and families for their tremendous achievement.

FREEDOM FOR JUAN BERMÚDEZ TORANZO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about

Juan Bermúdez Toranzo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Juan Bermúdez Toranzo is vice president of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights. On November 21, 2007, Mr. Bermúdez was participating in a peaceful fast at his home in support of the political prisoners kept in repressive and inhumane conditions in Cuba's gulags. That evening 30 police and state security thugs stormed Mr. Bermúdez's home and dragged him into a police car.

According to Amnesty International the arrest of Mr. Bermúdez was part of an increasingly arbitrary crackdown against dissidents because of their involvement in peaceful protests. The unjustified arrests by the totalitarian regime's goons were aimed at discouraging demonstrations against the government, particularly on December 10, International Human Rights Day. International Human Rights Day honors the day of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global declaration of human rights.

Just last month a sham regime court held proceedings in secret, "convicting" Mr. Bermúdez of "revealing state secrets," and sentencing him to 12 years in prison. But the regime hooligans were not content with the 12-year prison sentence. They wanted to send a message to future political dissidents by first putting Mr. Bermúdez in a punishment cell and denying him clothes and water. They also constantly subjected Mr. Bermúdez to psychological torture.

The inhumane conditions in the totalitarian regime's prisons took their toll on Mr. Bermúdez and he allegedly attempted to commit suicide.

This is not the first time Mr. Bermúdez has faced the brutality of the Cuban totalitarian-gangster regime. Last March while leaving the Rosa Parks Independent Library at the U.S. Interests Section, the regime's secret police arrested Mr. Bermúdez. After his release he said that he would continue his opposition to the dictatorship and his work for human rights.

After Mr. Bermúdez's arrest by regime thugs, known as the "National Revolutionary Police Unit," between 15 and 25 human rights activists carried out a sit-in in front of the "National Revolutionary Police Unit," demanding the release of Juan Bermúdez Toranzo. The sit-in included Ms. Nery Castillo, the wife of Mr. Bermúdez Toranzo. Because of her participation she has been subjected to harsh intimidation by regime goons. These goons warned her that if she did not leave the sit-in they would take away her children.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that human beings are locked in a barbarously inhumane gulag because they believe that all men and women have a right to freedom and democracy. My colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, including those who live under the darkness of totalitarian tyrannies. We must demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Juan

Bermúdez Toranzo and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNIE L. ALBERTSON

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Johnnie L. Albertson, a 32-year employee of the Small Business Administration who died on December 26, 2007, at the age of 83. She leaves behind a legacy of leadership, especially in her dedication to equal rights and the development of programs to improve the success rate of minority- and female-owned small businesses.

Following a career in business and advertising, Ms. Albertson served at the Small Business Administration from 1973 until her retirement in 2005. She was the first Associate Administrator for the Small Business Development Center program and proved instrumental in the success of the initiative, which assists more than 600,000 small businesses every year. In recognition of her outstanding service, Ms. Albertson was the first recipient of the SBA's Lifetime Achievement Awards, and was honored with the Silver Medal for Meritorious Service for her work developing a national training program for women entrepreneurs.

Johnnie Albertson broke through gender and class barriers at every stage of her life. During World War II, she served in the Women's Air Force Service Pilots corps as a pilot and ferried replacement aircraft across the Pacific. She later became the first female to sell advertising space for three major newspapers: The Washington Post, The New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune. At the Small Business Administration, she rose to become the first female Senior Executive—the highest rank possible for a civil servant without a congressional appointment.

Born in North Carolina, Ms. Albertson was self-educated and a voracious reader. She overcame many difficulties in her life, including the loss of her parents at a young age, to achieve great successes. Beloved by all who met her, she is remembered by her friends and family for her outrageous and irreverent sense of humor, owl glasses, love of jazz music, generosity, and fierce determination.

It is my honor, as chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, to acknowledge Johnnie Albertson's life accomplishments and celebrate her contributions to small business, entrepreneurship, and our nation as a whole. She was an inspiration to many and a friend to all. Her pioneering spirit, courage, and leadership will be missed, but her legacy will endure.

• 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.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LARKSPUR, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise with great pleasure to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Larkspur, California, one of the most beautiful cities in my district, and one of only three cities whose distinctive character have gained them listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Larkspur received this official recognition because it typifies the smalltown look of turn-of-the-19th century California.

From its origins as part of a Mexican land grant through its logging days to its late 19th century status as a risqué resort, Larkspur became just a small town where the well-off came to escape the freezing San Francisco summers.

Larkspur, like many Marin County towns, evolved after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. "What really started Larkspur was the earthquake," explains Helen Heitkamp, member of the city's Heritage Preservation Board and a local historian who helped write the book *Larkspur Past & Present, A History & Walking Guide*. "After the earthquake, the people who had summer cottages came to stay and that started that first big push."

But becoming a city wasn't as easy as it sounds, says Mayor Kathy Hartzell.

"They held their vote in August, 1907 and in February 1908, the county said OK. On March 1, 1908 the city was incorporated." However, one of the town's leading residents, Jean Escalle, brought suit against the city on the grounds there was inadequate notification of the election and the polls closed too early! It wasn't until 1911 that the courts ruled in favor of Larkspur. Escalle, by the way, went on to serve as a city council member, the mayor notes.

Noted for its beautiful setting, the Larkspur of the early 20th century wasn't as pretty as it is today. Clear-cut logging had decimated the forests and denuded the hillsides. In fact, says Heitkamp, "when the city was first formed, you needed a permit to cut trees because the hills were bare and they were trying to grow trees."

At that time, too, the original highway was mapped so that the main street through downtown Larkspur—called Magnolia Avenue—served as the major access road for much of Marin. Its character now, through restrictions by the Historic Register, looks much the same as it did 100 years ago.

A walk along Magnolia Avenue—from Mission Revival-style City Hall to the 1930s Art Deco-style Lark Theater three blocks away—encompasses the history of Larkspur. Along the way is the false-front building where the Silver Peso, the town's only bar, now resides. Built in 1890 as a blacksmith's shop, its walls still show the original double doors where wagons and buggies came in and out. The building next to it—the one that now houses the pool table—was the city's first firehouse. On the corner down the street stands the Blue Rock Inn, built in 1895, whose rooms have since been converted to apartments. On the street level, celebrities can often be seen dining at the sidewalk tables of its French res-

taurant, the Left Bank Brasserie. Downtown Larkspur, also designated as a State historic site, spans more than a century of architecture.

Preservation efforts begun in the 1970s have not only kept the smalltown character but have controlled new development. Heitkamp notes that these efforts also helped Larkspur maintain its beautiful surroundings. No longer set among tree stumps, the city is now resplendent in oaks, redwoods, madrones and other trees. Larkspur citizen groups have bought up the hills, Heitkamp says, "so that our backdrop for the city has also been preserved."

Of course, a city is more than its architecture, its setting, or its natural environment. Most of all, a city is its people. I am proud to say that the people of Larkspur are as charming, diverse and beautiful as the city itself.

The year-long centennial celebration will kick-off on Saturday, March 1, with a gala birthday party and parade from City Hall to Hall Middle School. The "Meet Me in Larkspur" centennial activities will continue throughout the summer and culminate with the city's famous Rose Bowl Dance, a tradition that made Larkspur a romantic destination for many years.

I am proud to represent the people of Larkspur, Madam Speaker, and I ask that you join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments of the past 100 years and wishing them the best for the next century.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. With this legislation, we take another step forward in the fight to combat global warming and achieve energy independence.

It is critical to our Nation's future that we invest in the energy sources of the 21st century. H.R. 5351 does this by reforming the Tax Code to reflect America's energy priorities. The bill includes, extends, and expands tax incentives for biodiesel production, solar energy and fuel cell investment and energy efficiency improvements to existing homes. The bill also provides new incentives for plug-in hybrid vehicles and cellulosic ethanol production. These investments will help us achieve my goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60–80 percent by 2050 in order to limit the effects of global warming.

In the interest of fiscal responsibility, H.R. 5351 pays for these investments in the energy resources of the future by cutting subsidies for industries that clearly need no help. The bill saves \$18 billion by ending tax loopholes and subsidies for multinational oil and gas companies which are already reaping huge, record profits. No longer will oil and gas companies be able to game the Tax Code by understating their income from foreign oil and gas extraction. These long overdue reforms send a clear message that oil and gas companies will no

longer get privileged treatment while Americans pay higher fuel prices and home heating costs.

H.R. 5351 also demonstrates that clean energy investments can create new jobs in addition to benefiting the environment. By extending the renewable energy production tax credit for wind, biomass, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources, the bill provides new opportunities for job growth in these areas. With its stellar research institutions and wealth of experts on engine design, Michigan has the potential to reap significant benefits from this legislation. Governor Jennifer Granholm has made clear her commitment to creating green-collar jobs through a renewable energy mandate and other reforms. I look forward to building on the progress made in this bill. With future reforms we can continue to reduce greenhouse emissions, secure our energy independence, and create new green industry jobs for Michigan and America.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER TODD M. MYERS, PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR RECIPIENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a hero. Heroism is a word we use a lot these days, and in a world beset by such real and mounting dangers, it's understandable that we're always in the market for a guardian angel or two. Still, I believe we could all learn something from the real-life heroism of Officer Todd M. Myers of Simsbury, Connecticut.

On July 29, 2005, Officer Myers was out of uniform and making his way to work when he witnessed a dump truck careen out of control and race down Avon Mountain, scattering cars and bursting into flames. Driven by little else than his impulse to help, Officer Myers plunged himself into the harrowing crash site, cutting a trapped woman from her car while exploding gas tanks left him with first- and second-degree burns. Rescuing several others, Officer Myers stayed at the scene with the injured until proper paramedic care could be administered. No one told him to help, and he certainly was under no obligation to do so as an out-of-uniform officer—but none the less, Officer Myers was compelled to place the welfare of others before his own.

This past December, to honor his courage and selfless sacrifice, the President of the United States will bestow the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to Officer Myers—an honor which has been bestowed on only a few of the most heroic Americans. Just as countless men and women risk their lives overseas every day in our military, men and women like Todd Myers carry the equally solemn duty of protecting America here in our towns, neighborhoods, and communities. We are all deeply indebted to Officer Myers and the unsung public safety officers across the country just like him, and I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EN-
ERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT
OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see this legislation come to the floor today that will extend critical tax credits for renewable energy while not adding to the Federal deficit.

The Production Tax Credit, PTC, in particular, has been instrumental in promoting the creation of a renewable energy industry. An extended PTC will provide more market certainty, and expanding the PTC to include solar, open-loop biomass, geothermal, and small irrigation power will ensure that all renewable energy sources can benefit. We must have an extension of this key tax credit before the current credit expires at the end of 2008, and this bill will extend it to the end of 2011.

The bill also authorizes \$2 billion of new clean renewable energy bonds, CREBS, for public power providers and electric cooperatives. This is a critical tool, especially for Colorado's rural co-ops and municipal utilities.

But this bill would also benefit families who want to invest in renewable energy. The bill would extend the credit for residential solar property for 6 years and increase the annual credit cap, currently capped at \$2,000, to \$4,000. And it would expand the definition to include residential small wind equipment and geothermal heat pumps so that consumers have more options.

Of course, the cheapest kilowatt of energy is the one you don't use, and energy efficiency also has a key role in addressing our energy needs. This bill will extend the tax credit for energy efficiency improvements to existing homes. It will also extend the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction for 5 years and the modification and extension of the energy efficient appliance credit for 3 years.

Rising gas prices are forcing many Coloradans to dip into their savings just to make ends meet. This bill will help families reduce their fuel bills by providing between \$4,000 and \$6,000 in tax credits toward the purchase of fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles. It will also help address long-term fuel cost concerns by expanding production of homegrown fuels, including creating a new production tax credit for cellulosic ethanol produced from domestic, non-food feedstocks such as switchgrass, corn stover, sawdust, and paper pulp, as well as an extension of the tax credits for biodiesel and renewable diesel.

I supported the energy bill that the House passed last year, which included many of these important tax provisions. But, for the lack of just one more vote in the Senate, these provisions were not included in the final bill that the President signed into law.

I hope today we can move this bill forward and promote positive change that will benefit rural communities, save consumers money, reduce air pollution, and increase reliability and energy security.

I strongly encourage my colleagues in the House to vote for this needed legislation, and

also encourage quick action in the Senate so that we may move it to the President's desk.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED
STATES PHARMACOPEIAL CON-
VENTION**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the United States Pharmacopeial Convention on the inauguration of its expanded headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Since 1820, the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention has established standards for drugs, both manufactured and compounded, and more recently for foods, including dietary supplements and food ingredients. These standards are developed by hundreds of volunteer experts from all over the Nation and the world.

The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention plays a vital role in our Nation's efforts to promote public standards and help ensure the integrity of our Nation's food and drug supply. The organization's standards are widely recognized in the United States and around the world because they are authoritative, science-based, and developed through a transparent and credible process with established integrity. For this the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention's work is recognized truly as the "standard of quality".

Since the 19th century, Congress has continually enacted laws that bring United States consumers the best, the most beneficial and the safest food and drugs in the world. These laws tie the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention together as premier public health bodies. They support the enterprising spirit of our Nation's citizens who have brought forth an abundance of life-saving drugs.

Recent incidents at home and abroad demonstrate the continued importance of protecting the public and ensuring our drugs and food are safe. The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention deserves our thanks for its efforts to protect the health of our families. From the medicines that heal our Nation's people to the food that nourishes us, the organization is working to ensure our safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention and recognize it for its commitment to public health. It is with great pride that I congratulate the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention for its work over 188 years and encourage its volunteers in continuing their exemplary standards-setting activities in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING ANNA NOVIKOVA
FOR HER SERVICE AS A CON-
GRESSIONAL PAGE**HON. MELISSA L. BEAN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anna Novikova, a young woman

from Illinois' Eighth District who I was proud to sponsor as a Congressional Page for the 2007 fall session.

Anna, who currently lives with her family in Palatine, Illinois, stands as an example of what can be accomplished through a combination of hard work, enthusiasm, and determination.

Born in Russia as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Anna immigrated to America at age 5. Since that time she has taken full advantage of the myriad opportunities available to those of us who are lucky enough to come of age in America. She has excelled academically, mastering the English language at an early age, participating in her primary school's Gifted Child program, and winning the prestigious American Legion Award for writing.

At Palatine High School, she participates in the Foreign Language Honor Society and placed as top sophomore in the Illinois Math League contest. In addition to these intellectual accomplishments, Anna is a talented pianist, a member of her school's choir and newspaper, and a dedicated athlete, running on the varsity cross country and track teams. Appropriately, she was nominated to Palatine High School's A-Team for achieving excellence in Athletics, Activities, Arts and Attitude.

When Anna applied to come to the House of Representatives as a page, she told me that she wanted to do so not only because of the unique opportunity to take part in our democratic process, but also in order to give back to her country. She certainly held up her part of the bargain, serving honorably as a Congressional Page while excelling within the academic curriculum at the Page School.

At the Page Departure Ceremony at the end of her term, Anna received awards that demonstrate two of her most apparent attributes: intelligence and dedication. She was honored for her performance in the classroom—particularly her expertise in economics—with the Ronald Weitzel Award, which is awarded to one page each term who demonstrates excellence in social studies. She was also recognized as having perfect attendance this semester at the Page School.

At the close of her term as a page, Anna said that the firsthand view of Congress has not disillusioned her about our political process. Rather, she feels incredibly lucky to have spent her days on the floor of the House of Representatives, heard our impassioned debates over SCHIP in person, and been present when the Dalai Lama addressed Congress. She came to Washington interested in trade, immigration, and gay rights, and is leaving passionate about the same issues but with more nuanced views on them.

Anna said while she has loved her time as a Congressional Page, she is also excited to return to Illinois to resume her extracurriculars that benefit others, including leading her school's chapter of Students for Obama in an effort to engage her fellow students in the political process. In the future, she plans to work in the public sector either as a diplomat or in some aspect of domestic politics.

Upon completing her term as a Congressional Page, Anna added another impressive accomplishment to her record. Just as importantly, she did so while maintaining something that many Americans often take for granted—optimism, hope, and belief in the potential of our democratic system.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM F.
BUCKLEY, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a founder of the modern conservative intellectual movement, William F. Buckley, Jr., who passed away yesterday morning.

Mr. Buckley was a man of all trades—author, soldier, musician, activist, editor, television personality, among others. Above all, he was a true patriot who believed in the ideals of limited government and the promotion of individual freedoms. Those goals were embodied in his extraordinary publication, *National Review*, which brought to light the mainstream conservative values that many Americans cherish and upon which our Nation was founded promoting victory in the Cold War.

Since high school, I have been an avid reader of *National Review*. I was inspired not only by the commonsense ideas that Mr. Buckley espoused, but just as much by his passion and dedication to those principles. He brought an uncanny wit and intellectual quality to his speeches and writings which endeared him to many—even those who disagreed with him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Buckley family during this time. William F. Buckley, Jr., made a positive difference for America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HONORING CALVARY CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Christian School in Columbus, Georgia, for their recent "Celebrate America" presentation, and their patriotic commitment to their country.

In a critical time in our Nation's history, with a consistent threat against freedom being declared against the United States of America and our allies, it is vital that the citizens of the United States remember that freedom is not free. Men and women of the United States Armed Forces serve around the world in an attempt to keep the citizens of America free and safe. Our soldiers are willing to pay the ultimate price for the freedom that we enjoy each and every day, and as Americans, we must not ever forget their sacrifice. It is of the utmost necessity that we continue to recognize our freedom and those that continue to ensure that our liberty remains. Too often, we overlook our freedom as a common occurrence.

In early 2008, the faculty, staff, and students of Calvary Christian School demonstrated their patriotism on February 7, 2008, and February 15, 2008, in the presentation of "Celebrate America", which was a time of reflection on all things American, including music, free speech, veteran recognition, active-duty military appreciation, and other displays of nationalism. For

this reason, I would like to recognize before the U.S. House of Representatives the commitment of Calvary Christian School, its faculty, staff, and students for their patriotism. I sincerely hope that these actions encourage other schools, organizations, and individuals to follow the example of nationalistic devotion displayed by the school in this presentation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes No. 78 through 84. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 78, the motion to consider the resolution, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 79, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 80, on ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 81, on agreeing to the rule for H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 82, on motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 83, on the Motion to Re-commit on H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 84, on passage of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife as she prepares to give birth to our second child. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 78: "nay"; rollcall 79: "nay"; rollcall 80: "nay"; rollcall 81: "nay"; rollcall 82: "nay"; rollcall 83 "nay"; and rollcall 84: "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NEW
EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION ACT"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the lure of employment opportunities in the United States has long been acknowledged as a major reason for immigration—both legal and illegal. Those in Congress know I'm for combating illegal immigration. As the ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, I, along with several of my subcommittee colleagues, offer an important new component in the immigration reform debate.

Employers want, need, and deserve a reliable employee verification system, and I want to give it to them. Every day, countless immigrants enter our country seeking the economic opportunities that a job in this country has to offer. Many play by the rules, wait their turn, and obtain the proper permission to work. That is called legal immigration, and I am all for it.

But when it comes to enforcing the law for those who do not play by the rules, it can't be done. That is because enforcement is based upon a failed system that is prone to both error and fraud. The result is an illegal immigrant population that has swelled by some estimates to over 12 million. This is a path our Nation cannot sustain, and the American people have rightly demanded action.

The bill we are introducing today is designed to achieve three important objectives: first, ensure a legal workforce; second, safeguard workers' identity; and finally, protect Social Security.

First, this legislation draws upon lessons learned from the past to help guarantee a legal U.S. workforce for the future. The current failed, paper-based I-9 screening process is replaced with an Electronic Employee Verification System, to be known as EEVS. This system would rely on the use of fewer, more secure identity documents and would be built upon the new hire reporting process already existing in each State. This reporting process is used by 90 percent of employers and was put in place a dozen years ago to track down deadbeat dads.

For Americans, work authorization would be confirmed only through the Social Security Administration. This ensures that there is no "Big Brother" law enforcement agency building new databases on law-abiding citizens. For non-citizens, work authorization would be confirmed through the Department of Homeland Security that has the databases on visa and immigration status.

Second, the legislation would help safeguard workers' identity. A voluntary system would be created using the latest technology to authenticate and protect a worker's identity. Private sector contractors, certified by the Federal Government, would authenticate the identity of employees by utilizing existing background-check and document screening tools and then safeguard the identity through a biometric identifier, such as a fingerprint or eye scan. The private sector provider would then verify work authorization in EEVS.

Think back to December 2006 and the now widely known Swift and Company raids. Nearly 1,300 workers in 6 States were arrested, including many in Cactus, Texas. A Swift and Company human resources official testified before a House panel that Swift had willingly participated in the government's voluntary verification program for Social Security numbers since 1997. This shows the system is broken and must be fixed.

Third, this legislation would protect the Social Security program by preventing wages earned through future unauthorized work from being used to determine benefits. Also the bill would protect the Social Security Administration's primary mission and trust funds by authorizing employment verification only through funds appropriated in advance.

So far, efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation have failed. Today we offer a new way forward for this Congress

to discourage unauthorized workers from entering this country illegally to seek work. Ensuring a legal workforce must be a key component of any immigration bill moving through Congress.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to build on this proposal to achieve a bipartisan solution to immigration reform.

HONORING BROOKE EDWARDS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an essay written by Brooke Edwards, a fourth grader from Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. Her school sponsored a writing contest in which students answered the ever patriotic question, "Why I'm Proud to be an American." It is stories like these that inspire all citizens. I am proud to report to the U.S. House of Representatives that Brooke won first place in the contest, I would like to submit her essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all Americans to read.

WHY I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

My name is Brooke Edwards and I'm a fourth grader. I go to Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. I'm proud to live in Georgia because it is in the United States and I'm proud to be an American. What do I like about America? I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July.

My first reason why I'm proud to be an American is freedom. I like our freedom because we don't have kings or queens bossing us around. For example, England has a queen. We can vote for our presidents. In America we have a choice that other countries don't have.

My next reason is our military. Brave men and women fight everyday all around the world for our freedom. We wouldn't be free if we didn't have the military. We have men and women who are veterans. They served our country and made me feel proud.

My final reason is our 4th of July. On the 4th of July, we celebrate our freedom and have fun too. We also celebrate our flag on the 4th of July because it stands for America. I love the 4th of July!

There are many reasons I like being an American. I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July. These are my favorite parts of America.

WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it all started way back in 7th grade, Mrs. Wilson made Texas history come alive and my fascination with Texas legends like Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and of course my personal favorite, William Barrett Travis, took root. It was this month, 172 years ago, that Travis, a 27-year-old lawyer, penned the most famous letter in Texas history from behind the walls of a besieged, rundown mission in San Antonio.

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots,

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the enemy under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion. Otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot. And the flag still waves proudly over the north wall.

I shall never surrender or retreat. I call upon you, in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to my aid with all dispatch. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible, die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

As a child, I was so intrigued by this letter. I would always be the first in my class to volunteer to play Travis at any given opportunity, if only just to read his words aloud. To me, he was the ultimate hero. Travis and his rag-tag group of relentless freedom fighters, made up of men from nearly every State in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, held off an entire army of several thousand for 13 days. Defeat was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death. And the rest is—as they say—Texas history.

History teaches us everything we need to know, if we just look. This letter was written nearly 2 centuries ago and its message still rings true today. It's a story of "liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character." Freedom is still worth dying for. And to do so as a soldier, "is what is due his honor and that of his country."

Travis believed these words, believed that the cause for independence was his life. Our freedom fighters today understand these words as well, they know that America is worth fighting for and that defeat is not an option. We must not neglect the call.

Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. Commander Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after 13 glorious days at the Alamo. The youngest to die for Texas was 15-year-old William Phillip King. The oldest to die was Gordon C. Jennings. He was 56. Their sacrifice would later be remembered along the banks of the San Jacinto as GEN Sam Houston led the Texans to victory and freedom. But their courage will never be forgotten.

Travis isn't just my favorite Texas war hero, he has intertwined himself throughout my life and even the lives of my children and grandchildren. He is the inspiration behind my profession. I always wanted to be a great lawyer like William Barrett Travis. My grandson, Barrett Houston, is even named after Travis. Inscribed along the bottom of my stationery are his words, "I shall never surrender or retreat," and for as long as I can remember, I end every letter with his famous words, "God and Texas." Because of men like William Barrett Travis, Texas is the great State that it is today. His legacy embodies the passion and loyalty that make Texans stand out around the world.

And that's just the way it is.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES

Alabama: James Buchanan, William Fishbaugh, Galba Fuqua, Issac White.

Arkansas: Issac G. Baker, Jesse G. Thompson, Henry Warnell.

Connecticut: Gordon C. Jennings.

Georgia: Albert (Alfred) Calvin Grimes, William T. Malone, Elice (Eliel) Melton, Manson Shied, William Wells, William Wills

Illinois: Jonathan L. Lindley.

Kentucky: Peter James Bailey III, James Bowie, Daniel William Cloud, Jacob C. Darst, John Davis, William H. Fauntleroy, John E. Gaston, John Harris, William Daniel Jackson, Green B. Jameson, John Benjamin Kellogg, Andrew Kent, Joseph Rutherford, B. Archer M. Thomas, Joseph G. Washington.

Louisiana: Charles Despalier, James W. Garrard, Joseph Kerr, Isaac Ryan.

Maryland: Charles S. Smith.

Massachusetts: John Flanders, William D. Howell, William Linn, Amos Pollard.

Mississippi: M.B. Clark, Isaac Millsaps, Willis A. Moore, George Pagan, Christopher Adams Parker.

Missouri: William Charles M. Baker, George D. Butler, Charles Henry Clark, George Washington Cottle, Jerry C. Day, George W. Tumlinson.

New Hampshire: Robert E. Cochran.

New Jersey: Richard Lucius Stockton.

New York: Robert W. Cunningham, Lewis Dewart, Samuel B. Evans, John Hubbard Forsyth, John Jones, James Tylee.

North Carolina: Micajah Autry, Dolphin Ward Floyd, William Parks, Mial Scurlock, Joshua G. Smith, John W. Thomson, Claiborne Wright.

Ohio: William B. Harrison, Tapely Holland, Robert Musselman, James M. Rose.

Pennsylvania: John J. Ballentine, James Murry Brown, John Cain (Cane), Robert Crossman, David P. Cummings, James Hannum, Samuel Holloway, William Johnson, George C. Kimble (Kimbell), William McDowell, John Purdy Reynolds, John M. Thurston, Hiram James Williamson, John Wilson.

Rhode Island: Albert Martin.

South Carolina: James Butler Bonham, Lemuel Crawford, George Neggan, Edward Nelson, George Nelson, Cleveland Kinloch Simmons, William Barrett Travis.

Tennessee: Joseph Bayliss, John Blair, Samuel C. Blair, Jesse B. Bowman, James (Robert) Campbell, David Crockett, Squire Daymon, William Dearduff, Almeron Dickerson (Dickinson), John Henry Dillard, James L. Ewing, James Girard Garret, Andrew Jackson Harrison, Charles M. Haskell, John M. Hays, William Marshall, Jesse McCoy, Robert McKinney, Thomas R. Miller, William Mills, Andrew M. Nelson, James Waters Robertson, Andrew H. Smith, A. Spain Summerlin, William E. Summers, Edward Taylor, George Taylor, James Taylor, William Taylor, Asa Walker, Jacob Walker.

Texas: Juan Abamillo, Juan Antonio Badillo, Carlos Espalier, Gregorio (Jose Maria) Esparza, Antonio Fuentes, Damacio Jimenez, William Phillip King, William Irvine Lewis, William J. Lightfoot, Jose Toribio Losoya, Andres Nava, Richardson Perry.

Vermont: Miles Deforest Andross.

Virginia: Robert Allen, John J. Baugh, William R. Carey, William Garnett, John Camp Goodrich, Patrick Henry Herndon, James Kenny, George Washington Main, Edward F. Mitchasson, Robert B. Moore, James Northcross.

Denmark: Charles Zanco.

England: William Blazeby, Daniel Bourne, George Brown, Stephen (or Ireland) Dennison, James R. Dimpkins, James C. Gwynne, William Daniel Hersee, James Nowlan, Marcus L. Sewell, Richard Starr, James E. Stewart, Thomas Waters, Anthony (Avram) Wolfe, son age 12 Wolfe, son age 11 Wolfe.

Ireland: Samuel E. Burns, Andrew Duvalt, Robert Evans, Joseph M. Hawkins, Thomas Jackson, James McGee, Jackson J. Rusk, Burke Trammel, William B. Ward.

Germany: Henry Courtman, Henry Thomas.

Scotland: Richard W. Ballentine, John McGregor, Isaac Robinson, David L. Wilson.

Wales: Lewis Johnson.

Unknown Locale: Robert Brown, Freeman H.K. Day, John E. Garvin, James George, Edward McCafferty, William T. Mitchell, Napoleon B. Mitchell, Thomas H. Roberts, William H. Smith, William Depriest Sutherland, Robert White, John (Last Name Unknown).

TRIBUTE TO THE PEACE CORPS
47TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

Since 1961, when the Peace Corps was created by President John Kennedy in Executive Order 10924 and subsequently authorized by the Congress, 139 host countries have invited 190,000 Peace Corps volunteers into their territories and homes to serve those in need and build mutual understanding, cooperation and respect. Peace Corps volunteers have contributed to improving health, education and basic essential services for an inestimable number of persons in dire need.

I am proud to say that this year, nine Peace Corps Volunteers from the seventh district of Arizona have applied and been chosen to carry on this vital legacy, serving abroad over six continents on this ever-smaller planet.

Of course, the Peace Corps is a uniquely precious legacy of our martyred President, John F. Kennedy. The idea of the Peace Corps is forever linked in American hearts to the spirit of those one-thousand days that were inaugurated with the words, "my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

This message still rings out strong and true in this new century. Love of country still has a powerful and appropriate role in motivating our young people to take up service, and the people of this Nation take proper pride in the noble mission carried out by these young women and men.

I also choose to believe that in this new century, we can also take a broader view of the challenges facing the global community of nations, in the face of global warming and environmental degradation, global health pandemics, and denial to billions of the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration Human Rights. I choose to believe that we have today a greater capacity to think deeply and act vigorously in response to a new call to service: Ask what you can do for your neighbor, and for your planet.

I offer my deepest respect, gratitude and praise for those many courageous women and men who have answered this clarion call to service, and a special note of recognition to my colleagues, Mr. FARR and Mr. HONDA and their service to this Nation and to humanity.

HONORING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 47th Anniversary of the Peace Corps and in doing so, join many others around the Nation in celebrating National Peace Corps Week. Their mission is to help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women while helping to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, as well as, a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Since the establishment of the Peace Corps by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, more than 190,000 U.S. citizens have served their country in the cause of peace by living and working in 139 developing countries. As of September 30, 2007, 8,079 Peace Corps Volunteers are currently at 68 posts serving 74 countries.

I am proud to say that two of those volunteers currently serving their country are from my district in West Virginia. Daniel J. Beck will finish up his 2 year's of service in Guinea this June, while Amelia Dulee-Kinsolving will return from Peru in September.

Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth and the environment.

The 190,000 citizens, who have volunteered to serve their country since 1961, came from all walks of life and represent the best of what the United States has to offer. The work they have done over the past 47 years has played an important role in developing nations and continues to provide opportunities for people of different backgrounds to come together to serve the cause of peace.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM CONDUCTIVE TO BICYCLING: "THE NATIONAL BIKE BILL"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution which recognizes that a national transportation system conducive to bicycling produces enriched health, reduced traffic congestion and air pollution, greenhouse gas emission reductions, economic vitality, and an overall improved quality of life which is valuable for the Nation.

Communities across the Nation are seeking to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, save energy and enhance neighborhood safety. The Federal Government can assist in those efforts by promoting increased bicycle safety, supporting policies that establish national target levels for bicycle use, increase intermodal travel, provide incentives to State and local government, provide flexibility in Federal transportation law, and encourage

partnerships with employers and executive agencies. These changes will benefit all Americans whether they ride their own bikes or benefit from those neighbors who do.

I have witnessed these positive impacts in my hometown of Portland, Oregon, as bike ridership has skyrocketed as modest investments in facilities have improved access and made biking safer. I have no doubt that communities nationwide can reap the benefits of bicycling if the Federal Government provides the right incentives and works with State and local officials on a balanced transportation system.

Ever since I started the Congressional Bike Caucus over 10 years ago, I have seen broad and bipartisan support for bicycling grow with over 170 members from both sides of the aisle standing up for the role bicycles play in our transportation system. I now call on my colleagues to support this legislation that gives bicycling its proper role for our Nation's mobility and health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, due to events in my district I missed votes held on February 26 and 27. Had I been present the record would reflect the following votes: Tuesday, February 26, H. Res. 974—A resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 3521—"yea"; Wednesday, February 27, H.R. 5351—A bill to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy—"yea"; H.R. 5264—A bill to extend certain trade preference programs—"yea".

CONGRATULATING MURPHEY
CANDLER LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Murphey Candler Little League on the celebration of its 50th anniversary. The league has enjoyed enormous success and growth since it was founded, as "Brookhaven Baseball," way back in 1958. But most significantly, Murphey Candler has played a prominent role in the lives of generations of young athletes who learned to love our national pastime on their storied fields.

Currently, over 850 kids play on 71 different teams in 6 separate leagues. Bringing together the entire community, hundreds of parents and family members participate as board members, coaches, managers, scorekeepers, and most importantly, passionate fans. This association of players and parents, rallied around our beloved baseball and a desire to build a fun and positive environment in which to learn, has provided the means for 50 years worth of improvement, growth, and fun.

Instilling the values of determination, teamwork, and fair play, the members and supporters of Murphey Candler Little League have

created an enduring source of recreation and community for countless families. I join my colleagues in the United States Congress in offering a sincere congratulation on their 50th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 78–84.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 78—“yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. Rollcall No. 79—“yes”—On Approving the Journal. Rollcall No. 80—“yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. Rollcall No. 81—“yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. Rollcall No. 82—“yes”—Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. Rollcall No. 83—“no”—Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. Rollcall No. 84—“yes”—Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL
MINER'S DAY RESOLUTION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, an old mining song contains the powerful, but truthful verse:

A miner's life is like a sailor, aboard a ship
to cross the waves,
Every day his life's in danger, still he ventures,
being brave,
Unlike you or me, a miner goes to work
every day, knowing that he is placing
his life in grave danger.

A miner goes underground and works with thousands of tons of dirt and rock above him. He works every day knowing that he is surrounded by dangerous, potentially fatal gases. He works in conditions that many of us would never want to have to endure, that many of us cannot even imagine.

I come from a coal mining State, where hardworking, God-fearing miners and their families have helped to forge a proud history and a culture guided by American values.

Every minute a miner is at work, he knows that he is a spark or a slip of a tool away from eternity. He knows that with a spark or slip of a tool, he will not return home that night and never see his family again.

Every minute a miner is at work, he faces gas explosions, equipment failure, roof falls, and fires. Still, as the song says, he “ventures being brave.” He must.

Fatality rates in our Nation's coal fields once resembled the casualty lists from the battlefields when our Nation was at war.

December 1907 is remembered in the coal fields as “bloody December.” On December 1, a gas explosion killed all 34 men in a mine in Fayette City, Pennsylvania. Five days later, 362 miners perished in the Monongah disaster in West Virginia—the worst industrial accident in American history. Ten days later, an explosion in Yolande, Alabama, killed 57 men. On December 19, Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania, an explosion killed 239 miners.

Laws, safety inspections, and better, safer equipment, thank God, have helped to reduce the casualty rates among our Nation's miners. But the tragedies in 2006 at Sago and Aracoma in West Virginia reminded Americans that mining is a dangerous profession. That, “every day his life's in danger, still he ventures, being brave.”

While facing these enormous dangers, these hard-working, patriotic Americans have continued to produce the raw materials that fueled the Industrial Revolution, the energy that heated our homes, and the resources that ensured our security. Today, miners continue to produce for the betterment of all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague from West Virginia, ALAN MOLLOHAN, in offering this resolution that supports the goals and ideals of a National Miner's Day to celebrate and honor the contributions that miners have made to America throughout our history.

It is a simple, yet very important way a grateful Nation can acknowledge these men and women who have done so much for us, and will continue to do even more throughout our future.

HONORING THE BALTIMORE CITY
COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT
CHOIR OF BALTIMORE, MARY-
LAND

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, today, I congratulate an exceptional high school choir in my district, the Baltimore City College High School Concert Choir of Baltimore, Maryland, which has been chosen to perform at New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

Baltimore City College High School Concert Choir was selected out of dozens of high school choirs across the country for this performance. The concert will feature 200 students from four states, and is the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Apart from their world-renowned performances, Carnegie Hall brings innovative music education programs to students across the nation. I am delighted that these young constituents have been given this opportunity.

Led by Linda R. Hall, the Baltimore City College High School Concert Choir performs repertoire drawn from all periods and musical genres and has performed on television, radio, and stages all along the Eastern seaboard and in Canada. The choir has shared the stage with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra,

the Morgan State University Choir, and the Baltimore Choral Arts, and has participated in numerous competitions and adjudications at which they have consistently received superior ratings and numerous awards. The choir has also traveled abroad, performing in Italy, France, and Spain. Choir members adhere to the standards of commitment, consistency, conditioning, cooperation, communication, character, and confidence.

I am honored to have one of the four schools in the nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival residing in the 7th Congressional District of Maryland, which I represent. They should be proud not only of their musical achievement, but their embodiment of the quality musical education the State of Maryland provides. I commend these students and their leaders for their success, and wish them the best of luck on March 10 when they perform at Carnegie Hall.

HONORING CHIEF I. D. SMITH FOR
16 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE
SEAGOVILLE POLICE DEPART-
MENT

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding citizen and public servant, Chief I. D. Smith, in honor of his retirement from 16 years of service with the Seagoville Police Department.

In 1971, Chief Smith began his law enforcement career as an officer with the West Tawakoni Police Department. Before coming to Seagoville, Chief Smith gained experience serving as a Deputy Chief, Captain, Investigator, and finally Chief for five different police departments.

Chief Smith will be remembered for bringing the police department into the 21st century by improving hiring standards and overseeing the implementation of contemporary law enforcement methods and technology. In addition, he achieved the always difficult, but highly admired, task of providing quality service and protection on a lean budget.

In addition to faithfully serving his community, Chief Smith is a husband to Shirley and proud father and grandfather.

I've been told that Chief Smith plans to spend a lot of time playing golf and fishing in retirement. I hope that he hits all the greens in regulation and that his livewell is always full.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Chief I. D. Smith for his courage in protecting and serving the citizens of Seagoville.

GREAT LAKES DAY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome all of the advocates that have come to Washington today for Great Lakes Day. Their goal is to advocate on behalf

of the long-term health of our magnificent Great Lakes—a cause that has been a primary advocacy of mine throughout my career in public service.

The people who have come here today on behalf of the Lakes have dedicated themselves to ensuring that America's greatest natural resource is able to be enjoyed for generations to come—a cause near and dear to the heart of every Michiganiaan—and I commend them for their selfless service.

I am proud to be from the Great Lakes state of Michigan and prouder still that we have been able to do some significant work to improve conditions in these magical waters together.

Last year, Congress finally passed the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA. WRDA authorized important projects aimed at improving the Lakes, including \$20 million to implement the Lake St. Clair/St. Clair River Management Plan and the construction of an electronic barrier to keep Asian carp out of the Lakes.

These are projects that I strongly support because of the benefits they will have on the health of the Great Lakes water.

While these projects are significant, much more needs to be done here in Congress to address the significant challenges facing this vital resource.

The Great Lakes are at historically low water levels which is effecting trade, tourism, and travel for everyone that uses the waters.

We are dealing with numerous invasive species—including phragmites and zebra mussels—which are having a terrible effect on the ecosystem of the lakes and the shoreline.

In fact, a new invasive species is being identified in the Great Lakes nearly every 8 months. This startling fact should prompt us all to act immediately to stop the spread of invasive species and the havoc they cause in our precious waters.

One other issue of concern is the algal blooms which we have recently seen flaring up in and around the Great Lakes. These blooms negatively impact fisheries, boating, tourism, and property values. The blooms may produce toxins which can be fatal to humans in certain cases. They are also causing botulism, which is creating a tremendous number of bird deaths. In the water, these blooms can produce “dead zones,” resulting in the demise of aquatic life. Algal blooms are particular problem on the Saginaw Bay, Lake St. Clair and the western shore of Lake Erie.

Since the Great Lakes are a national treasure they deserve the full attention of the United States Congress. The federal government must be a partner with state and local governments, as well as the Lake advocates that have invested their time and talents in improving conditions and the overall outlook of the Great Lakes.

We must work together to protect and preserve them for the future.

I was very energized last week when it was announced that the House would be considering the Coast Guard Re-authorization bill which includes tough new standards for the discharge of ballast water in the Great Lakes which will help reduce the number of invasive species entering the lakes.

I was then very disappointed to see that bill pull from the agenda because of other issues.

This House must pass this ballast water legislation as soon as possible and help to stop

invasive species from permanently damaging the fragile ecosystem in what remains wholly one-fifth of the world's surface fresh water supply.

The people of the Great Lakes States are demanding action and the time to act is now.

There is much more that we can do in addition to support the health of the Great Lakes. I will be honored to work closely with my colleagues to ensure that this national treasure is protected and preserved.

So I wish Happy Great Lakes Day to my colleagues, to those who have come to our Nation's Capitol to advocate on their behalf and everyone who shares my commitment to protecting and preserving our magnificent Great Lakes.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 930, and especially in support of Indiana Business College in Fort Wayne.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, there is a huge need for high-skilled workers, and Indiana Business College plays a critical role in helping our region meet this demand. Each year they provide thousands of students opportunities to “skill up,” so that they can better contribute to local employers and better provide for their families.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the top 20 fastest-growing occupations in our country are supplied by career and technical education. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that nearly three-quarters of employers struggle to hire qualified workers. Clearly the need for career and technical education is severe, and we in Congress must do what we can to encourage its growth.

In Northeast Indiana—as in the rest of the country—a high quality education is critical to obtaining a good, well-paying job. While Northeast Indiana is still a manufacturing center of the country, these jobs are becoming increasingly more high-tech and require higher levels of skills and training. Schools like Indiana Business College are helping prepare students for these changes.

Mr. Speaker, as competition in our global economy continues to grow more fierce, career and technical education is essential to preparing a well-educated, skilled workforce. I ask that my colleagues join with me in expressing support for Indiana Business College and schools like it. They are critical to the future of Northeast Indiana, and they are critical to the future of our country.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of National Peace Corps Week, in

honor of the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps on March 1, 2008.

Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 190,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served their country in 139 developing nations around the globe. Their undying efforts for the cause of peace are commendable and have made a lasting impact on the communities in which they have lived and worked.

Peace Corps volunteers range from recent college graduates to retirees with several decades of work experience, and represent the tremendous diversity of the American people. The issues they address cover HIV/AIDS education and outreach, environmental protection, and improving information technology in developing nations.

Three individuals from my congressional district in Brooklyn are presently serving as Peace Corps volunteers. Kimberly Joyce has been serving in Belize since the summer of 2006; Jame McCray has been serving in Samoa since the summer of 2006; and Caitlin Parish has been serving in Tanzania since the summer of 2007. Their tireless efforts for the greater cause of peace will profoundly affect these communities. I would like to applaud and commend these outstanding Brooklynites for committing themselves to such a worthwhile cause. They are role models for us all.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEAT INSPEC- TION ACT AND THE POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Unsafe Meat and Poultry Recall Act of 2008, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and grant the Secretary of Agriculture the power to order the recall of meat and poultry that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe.

The USDA announcement last week requesting a recall of 143 million pounds of beef from a slaughterhouse that is being investigated for unsafe practices makes clear the importance of bolstering the ability of the USDA to keep citizens safe from tainted meat products. In this instance, like most, the recalled beef had been distributed throughout the country, including to my State of New Mexico where the United States Department of Agriculture's Commodity Foods Program had sent 3,000 cases of the questionable beef to the state's Human Services Department to be distributed to school lunch programs.

It is imperative to the health and welfare of the American public that we bolster the regulation of the meat and poultry industry. The number of people affected annually from ingesting tainted meat and poultry products illuminates this proposition: 5,000 people die from food-borne illnesses each year. Furthermore, nearly 76 million people get sick annually from eating tainted food, of which 325,000 require hospitalization. In 2007 alone, there were 91 major food recalls.

The Jack in the Box E. coli outbreak of 1993 prompted the imposition of a new regulatory system on the meat and poultry industry

designed to help eliminate future deadly food-borne illness outbreaks. The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program shifted the responsibility for ensuring meat safety from USDA inspectors to the meat companies themselves and instituted microbial tests for harmful bacteria. Since the implementation of the HACCP regulations, however, controversy has erupted over whether the new rules place too much power in the hands of the meat industry to regulate itself.

Due to the huge political clout of the meatpacking industry, USDA does not have, nor seem to want, the power to issue mandatory recalls of tainted meat and poultry products. Complying with agency recalls, therefore, is at the industry's discretion. The meat industry says that it has never failed to cooperate with a recall request from the USDA, thus mandatory recalls of tainted meat are not needed. However, when USDA asks for a recall, a negotiation process ensues between the agency and the industry. Meanwhile, thousands of people could continue to eat potentially harmful meat. This is not a trivial matter. This is meat that is potentially contaminated and could result in death. From the time that contaminated meat or poultry is identified, there should not be a negotiating period. It should be recalled.

This is a question of accountability. Somebody must be held responsible for the quality and safety of the meat we consume. The government must ensure that the meatpacking industry produces only safe meat products. My bill will facilitate this need by amending the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. My bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to order the recall of meat and poultry that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe or tainted from the market. The time has come for this necessary step.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and the Republican Leader Mr. BOEHNER to congratulate the Congressional Management Foundation on its 30th anniversary. CMF has had a widespread and positive impact on this institution, and we are proud to applaud its efforts over the decades in applying its motto, "Good government through good management."

Founded in 1977, the Congressional Management Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to serving the Members of the House and Senate, as well as the institutional offices of the Congress, through staff management training, office facilitation services, publications on best practices, and technology research.

The idea for CMF was born out of the rapid growth of congressional offices in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Offices no longer were comprised of a single Member with a few support staff. Citizens had come to rely on Congress for a vast array of constituent services and expected rapid responses to questions and opinions on pending legislation.

Tom Bedell came to Washington to work in Congress in the 1970's to work for his father, Congressman Berkley Bedell from Iowa. He saw that, while Members of Congress could be brilliant legislators and great communicators, they were often overwhelmed by the management challenges of running up to four offices and a staff of twenty. Along with Dr. Len Hirsch, an organizational development consultant, Tom founded CMF and they began offering programs on enhancing efficiencies in office budgeting, managing constituent correspondence, and hiring staff.

Working with staff organizations such as the House Chiefs of Staff Association, CMF expanded its programs in the 1980's and 1990's, training hundreds of senior managers on everything from how to perform high quality personnel reviews to how to conduct difficult conversations with their staff and their bosses. With the help of CMF's strategic planning services, scores of Members of Congress have clarified their goals, enhanced their effectiveness at serving constituents and improved staff morale.

CMF strives to help congressional offices get off on the right foot even before the swearing-in ceremony. In 1984, CMF wrote the first edition of *Setting Course: A Congressional Management Guide*. This book, which is revised for every Congress and distributed within days of the election, is now a staple for freshmen Members and veterans alike. They also produced a companion, *Frontline Management: A Guide for Running Congressional District/State Offices*. Additionally, for 20 years CMF has been offering an orientation program to introduce new senior staff to the basics of hiring staff, creating a budget and setting up an office while their bosses are struggling to learn the nuances of parliamentary procedure and committee assignments.

CMF was also the first organization to create salary and employment studies for Capitol Hill, providing Members and senior managers with useful benchmarks to aid in the office budgeting process.

In the last few years CMF has been an invaluable resource as Congress has adopted new technology to respond to the dramatic increase in communications and citizen advocacy as a result of the Internet. It partnered with distinguished universities, such as George Washington University, Harvard University, Ohio State University and the University of California-Riverside, to offer guidance on how to design congressional Web sites and be more responsive to constituents online. Their Gold Mouse Awards for superior Web sites have become coveted commodities on Capitol Hill.

Also in the last few years CMF has helped respond to a House request for perhaps one of its most important projects in its 30-year history: helping to design a 10-year information technology roadmap for the House of Representatives.

Thanks in part to CMF, Congress has a more professionalized workforce with better morale and performance. And the American people get a better government when our democratic institutions are more efficient and effective.

We thank all of the current and past supporters, leaders, and staff of the Congressional Management Foundation who believe in the Congress and the people who work here, and who feel that we truly can achieve "good

government through good management." We congratulate them on 3 decades of outstanding service to the Congress and the Nation. And we wish them success in the decades to come.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 930 and especially in support of Brown Mackie College in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, there is a huge need for highly skilled workers, and Brown Mackie College plays a critical role in helping our region meet this demand. Each year they provide thousands of students opportunities to "skill up," so that they can better contribute to local employers and better provide for their families.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the top 20 fastest growing occupations in our country are supplied by career and technical education. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that nearly three-quarters of employers struggle to hire qualified workers. Clearly the need for career and technical education is severe, and we in Congress must do what we can to encourage its growth.

In northeast Indiana—as in the rest of the country—a high quality education is critical to obtaining a good, well-paying job. While northeast Indiana is still a manufacturing center of the country, these jobs are becoming increasingly more high-tech and require higher levels of skills and training. Schools like Brown Mackie College are helping prepare students for these changes.

Mr. Speaker, as competition in our global economy continues to grow more fierce, career and technical education is essential to preparing a well-educated, skilled workforce. I ask that my colleagues join with me in expressing support for Brown Mackie College and schools like it. They are critical to the future of northeast Indiana, and they are critical to the future of our country.

HONORING MR. PHIL DRAKE OF DRAKE ENTERPRISES FOR YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Phil Drake, a constituent of North Carolina's 11th District and the owner of Drake Enterprises.

Drake Enterprises was founded in Franklin, NC, in 1954 by Mr. Drake's father. At the time, the business focused on helping individuals prepare their taxes. When Phil took over the family business in the 1970s, he shifted the company's focus to the development of tax preparation computer software.

Today, that small business started by one man employs more than 300 people in Western North Carolina and Drake software is used by over 20,000 tax professionals across the Nation. In 2006 alone, Drake software delivered over 6 million Federal returns and 5 million State returns.

But, Phil Drake's success extends far beyond his business savvy and entrepreneurial spirit.

Phil has implemented a set of core principles at Drake Enterprises that are an excellent model for all to follow. Those core principles include: a commitment to follow Biblical principles, motivating and helping employees achieve their maximum potential, and rewarding employees for excellence and loyalty.

Phil has not limited those principles to his business; he has shared them with the community. Whether working to bring high-speed Internet access to the mountains through Balsam West Fiber Net, in his church, or being the drive behind Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, Phil Drake has been a leader in every sense of the word.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Phil Drake and thanking him for his service to his community and our country.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE KEATHLEY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mike Keathley, of Dexter, Missouri, for his noble service to the people of Missouri. Because of Mike's expertise and leadership, Missouri State government works better and more effectively for all citizens.

Mike has always possessed a deep sense of community and true desire to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. As Commissioner of Office of Administration for the State of Missouri, Mike has done more than any other person to improve the State's budget situation and ensure government is delivered more responsibly and effectively to all citizens. I know Mike personally and can attest to the fact that his dedication and steadfast leadership are responsible for making these improvements possible.

Mike has played a crucial role in bettering lives in the private sector as well. He has served admirably on the Board of Directors of numerous companies and associations, including the Dexter Memorial Hospital and his church, the First United Methodist Church of Dexter. I am confident his successes have been closely observed and duplicated throughout our community and State. Mike serves as a tremendous role model for all Missourians, especially those among the younger generation beginning new careers, whether they be in the public sector or private sector.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mike Keathley for his many achievements and the profound impact he has made on his community, State and Nation. I ask that you join me along with Mike's family, friends and the entire State of Missouri in paying tribute to his remarkable career.

BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION CON-
DEMNING IRAN'S PERSECUTION
OF BAHAI'S

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague ROB ANDREWS, I am introducing a bipartisan resolution to condemn Iran's continued persecution of its Baha'i minority.

In 2006, Iran's Armed Forces Command Headquarters ordered the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the Police Force to identify members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran and monitor their activities.

In that same year, we saw the largest roundup of Baha'is since the 1980s. The Iranian Interior Ministry ordered provincial officials to "cautiously and carefully monitor and manage" all Baha'i social activities. The Central Security Office of Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered to be a Baha'i.

In 2007, the situation worsened. More than two-thirds of the Baha'is enrolled in universities were expelled once identified as Baha'is. Police entered Baha'i homes and businesses to collect details on family members.

Twenty-five industries were ordered to deny licenses to Baha'is. Employers were pressured to fire Baha'i employees and banks were instructed to refuse loans to Baha'i-owned businesses. Baha'i cemeteries were destroyed.

In November 2007, three Baha'i youths were detained for educating underprivileged children. The following month, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code, requiring the death penalty for all "apostates"—a term applied to Baha'is and any convert away from Islam.

This government-sponsored persecution must end. The world cannot be silent as Iran prepares to ethnically cleanse its Baha'i minority.

I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this bipartisan resolution condemning Iran's persecution of the Baha'is, calling for the immediate release of three Baha'i youths and calling on Iran to reject a recent draft Islamic penal code requiring the death penalty for all "apostates."

TRIBUTE TO HAL BRUNO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Hal Bruno—an individual that most of you will know best for his 50-year career as a professional journalist whose integrity and trust earned him the respect and approbation of his peers and politicians alike. Today, however, I'd like to recognize another, perhaps lesser known, side of Hal—his more than 30-year commitment to the men and women of the fire service.

Recently, Hal Bruno announced that he was stepping down as Chairman of the National

Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the organization established by the Congress to honor our fallen heroes and assist their families and co-workers. It was with deep regret that the board of directors accepted his resignation. Since 1993, Hal has served with distinction on the board of directors, the last seven as chairman. For Hal and his lovely wife, Meg, the Foundation is that ray of light that has guided family members of fallen firefighters through their dark journeys.

When a firefighter falls in the line of duty, Hal likens it to losing a family member. Long after the death, Hal has always been there to provide comfort and assistance to the family members, no matter how long it takes for them to regain their strength and move ahead with their lives. The Foundation and the fire service, itself, are fortunate to have had a leader with such compassion and dedication as my friend, Hal Bruno.

Always humble, Hal has always been one to credit the professional staff of the Foundation for the positive impact the Foundation has made on the people it serves—family members of our fallen heroes. But Hal, through his leadership, inspiration and selfless dedication—set the course of the Foundation in a new direction, resulting in a tremendous growth of the Foundation's programs during his years as chairman. Those of us involved with the fire service are pleased to hear that he will continue to serve as an active member of the board of directors.

To both Hal and Meg Bruno, I extend my personal thanks and the thanks and gratitude of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, for their dedication to our first responders, and, especially, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. I ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to Hal and congratulating him upon his retirement and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL COSTELLO

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Mr. Paul Costello, for his outstanding work with young men and women from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

In organizing the Washington-Ireland Program for Service and Leadership, Paul has used his boundless energy, enthusiasm and passion for peace to bring together students from varying backgrounds to learn about one another as they also gain valuable work experience in our Nation's Capital. Promoting cultural understanding among the next generation has united students to face the challenges of the future together, in keeping with the spirit of the Northern Ireland peace process.

I have been fortunate to host young men and women from the Washington-Ireland Program in my Congressional office during the summer months. I have been impressed with their commitment to positive change as well as their strong desire to develop leadership skills they can put to use when they return home. As a result of Paul Costello's vision and dedication, more than 350 young graduates

are now engaged in prestigious and rewarding careers in diverse fields including law, business, politics, communications and education. In addition, all who have come to know him have enjoyed his delightful sense of humor and his talent as a most entertaining storyteller. He founded storywise.com, the Center for Narrative Studies, here in Washington and has shared his insight with audiences nationally and internationally.

On Friday, February 29, friends, supporters and alums from the Washington-Ireland Program will come together to toast Paul Costello for 10 years of remarkable success. I know my colleagues here in Congress join me in expressing appreciation for his service and in wishing him all the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO CORONA CITIZEN OF
THE YEAR BECKY GUNNOE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California, are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Becky Gunnoe is one of these individuals. On January 19, 2008, Becky received the city of Corona's top honor when the Corona Chamber of Commerce named her Citizen of the Year for 2007 at the organization's 93rd annual awards and installation dinner at the Eagle Glen Golf Club.

Becky Gunnoe exemplifies the word "volunteer." For more than 20 years, Becky has touched the lives of many people through her volunteer work in many programs and services in Corona. As a founding member in 1996, Becky was the catalyst for the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) coming to Corona, including funding, training, and attracting volunteers. TIP is a group of specially trained citizen volunteers who provide "emotional first aid" to victims of traumatic events and their families in the first few hours following a tragedy. The volunteers are called to a crisis scene or to a local hospital by authorized police officers, firefighters or hospital personnel. Now in its 11th successful year, the program has a close working relationship with all the local emergency agencies because of Becky's continued efforts. She is responsible for training not only the volunteers, but also the emergency personnel.

Becky has also served on the Corona Fire Safety Foundation Board, CFSF, for the past 5 years, and currently is its president. She has also been with the Community Police Community Partnership, CPCP, since October 1997 and served as president from 1999 to 2001. A joint fundraiser of these two organizations called the Great Taste has enabled these partnerships between the community and the city to enhance and expand public safety for the benefit of residents.

Becky was one of the first volunteers trained and has been a trainer for the past five years for the City of Corona Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team program,

CERT, which supplements city resources in the event of a disaster or other major emergency. CERT volunteers are trained in emergency procedures and are duly registered as disaster service workers in accordance with the California Government Code and the City of Corona Municipal Code. Becky has also been actively involved with the Advisory Board of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, ADV, and the Coalition of Family Preservation for almost 10 years. She has also served on the Riverside County Board of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, ADV, for 2 years and served as president in 2005. In addition to all her community activities, Becky also takes care of her husband, Dr. Charles E. Gunnoe, a former Chamber president and winner of the Citizen of the Year award in 1997.

In light of all Becky Gunnoe has done for the community of Corona, the City of Corona named Becky their Citizen of the Year. Becky's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING VERNA WEBBER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowan Verna Webber on the celebration of her 105th birthday today.

Verna was born on February 27, 1903 in the Ames, Iowa area. She grew up with seven siblings. Verna married Henry Albert Webber, who was a professor at Iowa State University. They happily had three children, Marjorie, Richard, and Don. Verna currently lives at the Riverside Manor in Ames. She remains in excellent health, and I am told from a good source that she can kick higher than any other resident during morning exercises. Verna spends her days with her daughter, Marjorie, who lives along with her at Riverside, where they can be seen attached at the hip.

There have been many changes that have occurred since Verna was born. We have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, communism, and the birth of new democracies. Verna has lived to see the leadership of 18 United States Presidents and 24 Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I am extremely honored to represent Verna in Congress, and I know that my colleagues will join me with warm birthday wishes for continued happiness and health in her future years.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY CORPORAL
DUNCAN CHARLES CROOKSTON

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous life and the ultimate sacrifice of Army CPL Duncan Charles Crookston. This exceptional soldier merits our recognition and esteem as his character and devotion to duty decreed that he put the needs of others before his own. Corporal Crookston possessed the virtues that define an honorable life.

Tragically, Corporal Crookston was taken from us as a result of complications arising from severe injuries received in an attack and roadside blast along one of Baghdad's deadliest roads. Three of his comrades were killed and one other was wounded when an explosively formed penetrator blasted through their vehicle. Corporal Crookston died on Friday, January 25, 2008, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. This fine young man was only 20 years old and while many of us have been blessed to live a longer life, I believe that few of us will have lived one of such consequence in service of our Nation's cause.

Corporal Crookston was the son of Christopher and Lee Crookston. He enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from West High School in Denver, Colorado. He became an airborne infantryman and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas. Prior to his deployment to Iraq, he married his high school sweetheart, Meaghan. Comrades in arms noted that he was very intelligent and "able to complete a Rubik's cube in under 56 seconds." He became his unit's resident expert in computers and other electronic devices. He is remembered as someone who "helped everyone out whenever they needed him" . . . (a person who was) "full of life" . . . "a kind guy (who) was very loving and selfless, one in a million . . . (a man) who was willing to give up his life for other people."

I never had the honor of meeting Corporal Crookston but it is clearly evident that he was raised by a good family to be a decent, responsible and honorable person. He loved our country and volunteered to take his place among those who put themselves in harms way because of a singular and abiding devotion to this nation. Corporal Crookston understood his obligations and, in the words of Abraham Lincoln on the battlefield at Gettysburg, he gave "his last full measure of devotion" . . . so that others may live a better life. All Americans are in his debt. His devotion to duty in the war against terrorism and his uncommon valor in the face of mortal danger leave us with a legacy of courage and honor to which very few can aspire. Among other awards including the Army Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart, the United States Army awarded Corporal Crookston the Bronze Star.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life and sacrifice of United States Army CPL Duncan Charles Crookston, a distinguished soldier. His life was exemplary and his contributions are rich in consequence. On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District of

Colorado, I wish to extend our admiration and profound gratitude for this most honorable American. Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow, Meaghan, his parents, Christopher and Lee, and his five brothers.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
THOMAS CARNEY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who has quietly spent the last twenty-five years making a difference in our community. Prior to 1983, Thomas Carney would never have described himself as, in his own words, a "bunny hugger". However, while out on a walk that year in our desert community, he came across two desert tortoises that had been badly damaged by heavy equipment on a construction site. One did not survive, but the other one did, due to the care and compassion of Mr. Carney.

This one day occurrence put Mr. Carney on a course in life he could never have imagined—tortoise advocate. He is now a member of the Arizona Chapter of the National Turtle and Tortoise Society. This group is dedicated to the study and conservation of these endangered animals.

I feel that it is important to recognize people like Thomas Carney. He saw a problem and educated himself about how to help these gentle creatures. He is now an advocate for desert tortoises and donates his time to educating others.

Too often, we overlook the little things in life that really make a difference. Mr. Carney, I want to recognize your efforts. I say congratulations and thank you very much for a job well done.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF
THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the individuals from the 26th District of Texas who are currently serving with the Peace Corps in countries all across the globe. Elizabeth Bryant, Blake Childs, Genevieve Dozier, Justin Fleury, Philip Hernandez, Kareem Mansour, and Marianne Montalvo are among the 8,079 Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving 74 countries at 68 posts worldwide.

More than 190,000 citizens of all ages and backgrounds have worked for the cause of peace in 139 countries since the organization was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. Peace Corps Volunteers have made momentous and long-lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment.

As we have all seen before, it is possible that a single person can be capable of chang-

ing the world. Therefore I know the impact made by these seven individuals is simply unimaginable. Elizabeth, Blake, Genevieve, Justin, Philip, Kareem, and Marianne are currently stationed in 7 different countries for two-year terms. Their commitment to world peace is a trait that is to be commended and their passion for service is something to be both appreciated and emulated.

One of my heroes, President Ronald Reagan, often spoke about the importance of voluntary service. He once said it is like "a spirit that flows like a deep and mighty river through the history of our Nation." These selfless individuals exemplify the character and moral fiber of philanthropy.

The Peace Corps provides an invaluable service to the world and I believe it is important that we recognize that service. The admirable men and women who dedicate their time to serving others truly make this world a better place. It is an honor to represent seven of those individuals in the 26th District of Texas. I am proud that these exemplary citizens, who undoubtedly act as role models to those who wish to follow in their footsteps.

IN HONOR OF THE RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW YORK EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY'S EAR INSTITUTE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the ribbon cutting for New York Eye and Ear Infirmary's Ear Institute. This spacious new facility, located on the 9th Floor of 380 Second Avenue, will provide hope to thousands of individuals who are suffering from hearing loss.

The Ear Institute is a state-of-the-art facility that brings together ear specialty services from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Beth Israel Medical Center and the Children's Hearing Institute. The \$2.7 million renovation encompasses 15,150 square feet and will provide care to approximately 15,000 patients each year. A center of excellence in auditory health care, it includes a Hearing and Learning Center, the Cochlear Implant Center, a Hearing and Balance Disorders Center and a Vestibular Rehabilitation Center. The Institute's physicians will include specialists in otology and neurotology, as well as some of the world's most respected medical researchers in otolaryngology.

Hearing loss is America's number one birth defect and a leading cause of disability affecting 28 million Americans of all ages. Most adults over age 60 lose approximately 1 percent of their hearing annually, making hearing loss one of the most universal problems of aging. Hearing loss leaves people isolated from the community and unable to participate in many activities. Using innovative technology, the Ear Institute can literally transform the quality of people's lives. At the Ear Institute ribbon-cutting, I met profoundly deaf individuals who, thanks to innovative techniques used by the Infirmary's exceptional medical staff, were now able to hear, including children who could hear well enough to participate in

mainstream classrooms, adults who were able to return to their jobs, and seniors who were able to enjoy a better quality of life.

The Ear Institute will build on the excellent programs that the Infirmary has offered for many years. The Infirmary's Cochlear Implant Center is one of the largest in the United States, and participates in numerous national and international research protocols. The Infirmary pioneered innovative procedures that have restored hearing to thousands of profoundly deaf individuals, including infants as young as six months and adults.

The Infirmary also specializes in diagnostic services for people with hearing and balance disorders, and the new Ear Institute is equipped with some of the latest technology for helping diagnose problems, including rotational chair testing, dynamic Platform Posturography, pure tone and speech audiometry, advanced auditory brainstem and middle latency testing.

Founded in 1820, the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary is the oldest specialty hospital in the Western Hemisphere and was the first hospital to provide clinical training to medical students. The Infirmary is currently a teaching hospital affiliated with New York Medical College. With more than 20 residents and fellows graduating each year, it is considered one of the finest training programs for ophthalmologists and otolaryngologists in the world today.

With some of the most advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities available anywhere in the world, the Infirmary is often the first user of innovative technology, such as the first clinical high-resolution ultrasound biomicroscope in the United States. The Infirmary performs more than 23,000 surgical procedures and treats approximately 142,000 people on an outpatient basis each year. Its Eye Trauma Center treats more emergency eye cases than any other facility in New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the exceptional achievements of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and in celebrating the opening day of its new state-of-the-art Ear Institute.

CONGRATULATING SHARON DOYLE
ON HER OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sharon Doyle on receiving Tempe Leadership's Outstanding Community Leadership Award. I am especially pleased to recognize Sharon because she is not only a worthy recipient, but a long-time family friend from my home town, Tempe, Arizona. This award recognizes outstanding leadership achievements and service that contribute to improving the quality of life in Tempe.

Sharon is also a fellow educator, retiring after thirty years as a speech and language pathologist in the Tempe Union High School District. This award represents years of community service which at the present time involves service to sixteen different committees and organizations. Although Sharon is retired,

she continues to use her time to serve education-related organizations, proving that her advocacy for young people did not end with her retirement.

She is a graduate of Tempe Leadership Class XVI and is the president of the Tempe High School District Education Foundation, vice-president of the Tempe Impact Education Foundation and is active on the Tempe City Council's Education, Technology and Economic Development Committee.

A community's quality of life is determined by many factors, such as the policies set by city government and the programs available to its citizens. However, I believe that a community rises and falls on the shoulders of its citizens, and the contributions they make to that community. Sharon exemplifies this commitment and raises the bar for everyone around her. I am proud to call Sharon Doyle a friend, and I commend her on her continued service to the young people of our community.

Sharon, congratulations on a job well done. Keep up the good work!

IN HONOR OF FIFTY YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE TWIN
CITIES NORTH CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members and leadership of the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce. This weekend, the more than 500 corporate citizens of the Twin Cities North area that make up the Chamber, will celebrate their 50th anniversary at their Glitz & Glamour Gala.

The northern suburbs of the Twin Cities are vibrant, growing communities with state-of-the-art health care, high quality education, affordable housing, and an abundance of opportunities for recreational enjoyment. The Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce is a big part of what makes this region such an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family.

By helping local business and community leaders work together to fill gaps in community needs and grow the local economy, the chamber ensures that the area enjoys all the benefits of a bustling metropolis while maintaining its small-town feel. On a drive through the neighborhoods and business districts of Arden Hills, Blaine, Columbia Heights, Fridley, Little Canada, Mounds View, New Brighton, Roseville, Shoreview, and Spring Lake Park, one truly feels surrounded by the best of all worlds.

I commend the members of the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce for their dedication to strengthening their local economy and improving their home communities. And I commend the leadership of the chamber under the guiding hand of Chairman of the Board Doug McNurlin for their dedication to their neighbors and their commitment to the core mission of the chamber of commerce.

RECOGNIZING PEACE CORPS VOL-
UNTEERS FROM MARYLAND'S
THIRD DISTRICT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peace Corps volunteers from my district: Jessica Ayd, Laura Burke, Gwyneth Caverly, Christopher Chapman, Erin Dahan, Aaron Degrafenreidt, Colin Doyle, Craig Edmonds, Jennifer Forster, Mark Gormley, John Gudger, Jonathan Katz, Oluseyi Lawoyin, Anne Lilly, Robi Marbury, William Marbury, Martha Moiforay, Anna Moyer, Hannah Stocks, and Sheena Washington.

I'd like to thank them for their terrific work in countries far and wide, and for helping make America's image abroad stronger at a time when we need it most. Additionally, I'd like to congratulate the Peace Corps on its 47th anniversary. Our country has truly been enriched by the experiences of the Peace Corps volunteers.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR DR.
MARWAN SABBAGH

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Marwan Sabbagh, a nationally renowned neurologist who has dedicated his career to finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. As the founder and director of clinical research at Sun Health Research Institute's Cleo Roberts Center for Clinical Research, Dr. Sabbagh is working to develop new tools and treatment options for those who have been diagnosed with this tragic disease.

Dr. Sabbagh and the Sun Health Research Institute are partners in the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium. This Consortium is a leading model for statewide research centers that build upon the strengths of participating institutions. As a member of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's disease, I am proud of the groundbreaking research and education that is being done in my home state of Arizona.

Later this week, I will join Dr. Sabbagh as he celebrates the release of his latest book, "The Alzheimer's Answer". This book provides readers with the latest facts about the disease, real tips for prevention, and information on current diagnosis and treatment options. As we continue to learn more about the crisis this disease presents, reducing our risk and promoting wellness is more important than ever.

Madam Speaker, in addition to Dr. Sabbagh's work with the Sun Health Research Institute, he is also a scientist in the Department of Neurology at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale and serves as an adjunct professor at Midwestern University and Arizona State University. Through his work at these leading research institutions, Dr. Sabbagh is a leading investigator for several national Alzheimer's treatment trials, including Alzheimer vaccine studies.

Dr. Sabbagh currently resides in Scottsdale with his wife Ida and their two sons, Habib and Elias. The work that Dr. Sabbagh has done, and continues to do, will greatly benefit our nation. I am proud of his accomplishments and congratulate him on his book release.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS B. BURGELIN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Louis B. Burgelin, of Vallejo, California, for his many accomplishments and contributions to our community. Louis has provided remarkable leadership to countless organizations during his lifetime and the good citizens of our community have been the beneficiaries.

Louis Brosnahan Burgelin was born in Vallejo, California, on January 20, 1916, to Otto and Frances Burgelin. One of three children, Lou started his education at St. Vincent's Elementary School at the tender age of 4. During his years at Vallejo High School he studied hard but also spent a good deal of time playing football and tennis and perfecting his ability as a track sprinter. Following his high school graduation in 1932, Lou entered UC Berkeley for 2 years of study before transferring to the Mare Island Naval Shipyard Apprentice School. Lou graduated as a Marine Machinist and began an illustrious career. Quickly rising to management positions, Lou's leadership was instrumental in the success of several of our country's shipyards. At Hunter's Point in San Francisco, Lou served as both Head Progressman, and Labor Relations Superintendent. During his time at Mare Island in Vallejo, he served as Chief Progressman, Workload and Scheduling Manager, as well as the Production Equipment and Construction Manager. At Norfolk Naval Shipyard Lou was the Production Control Manager.

After retiring from the Federal Service in 1972, Lou served for 19 years as the Executive Secretary of the Armed Services Committee of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce. He participated in the acquisition of more than \$200 million in project authorizations for Mare Island. He was also instrumental in maintaining the dredging operations so necessary for shipyard operations.

Over the years, Lou Burgelin has also donated his time and talent to countless professional and community organizations. He is a Charter member of the Naval Civilian Manager's Association and served as both local and national President. He also served as President of the Navy Yard Association of Mare Island and the Council of Naval Employee Groups, representing all of the employees of the West Coast Naval Shipyards. He has been elected National Vice President of the Retirement Federation of Civil Service Employees, the first Chairman of the Combined Federal Campaign for Napa and Solano Counties, the first Chairman of the Vallejo Senior Citizens Council and the President of the Vallejo-Napa United Way. Lou has served as President of the Vallejo Chapter 16 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) and he is a long-standing member of the Vallejo Salvation Army.

Among his many civic activities, Lou is an active member of the Vallejo Elks Club having served as Exalted Ruler, a National Officer, and as the Elks National Ritual Judge, has served as Foreman of the Solano Grand Jury and is one of the founders of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum.

Lou has received a Public Service Medal from the Navy's Chief of Naval Operations, the prestigious "Others" designation from the Salvation Army, and the Man of the Year award presented by the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce.

And it pleases me to report that Lou Bergelin is still active in the community. He serves on the Vallejo Council of the Navy League, he's Secretary of the Tobacco Fund Advisory Board for Solano County, Treasurer for the Salvation Army, volunteers at St. Vincent's Church, Past Big SIR and Chaplain for Branch 88 and he is National Legislative Chair for Vallejo NARFE. Lou has been happily married to Betty Greenwell Bergelin for almost 69 years. They have three children, three grandchildren and five great-grand children.

Madam Speaker, recognition of Mr. Bergelin's devotion to his family, his community, and his country, it is my honor to recognize him today.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL BASSETTE
NOEL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Rachel Bassette Noel. This remarkable public servant merits our recognition and esteem as her leadership, service and lifelong devotion to civil liberty and equal opportunity has done much to advance the lives of our people.

Rachel Noel has been celebrated as "a pioneer for equity," "a woman of valor," and "a magnificent rebel." She demanded the dignity due to all people. She sought to unfetter the great potential of our children and she did her part, in no small measure, to tear down the walls of segregation and remove the barriers to equal education. Although many individuals have made notable contributions to our community and state, few have left a legacy of progress as has Rachel Noel.

Rachel Noel was born 1918 in Hampton, Virginia—in the segregated South. Her father, A.W.E. Bassette, was a lawyer and her mother was a teacher. They instilled in her the value and importance of a good education and Rachel Noel went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) and earned a master's degree in sociology from Fisk University. After World War II, she and her husband, Dr. Edmond F. Noel, moved west and settled in Denver in 1950. As in the segregated South, they encountered discrimination and racial bias in Denver. Dr. Noel practiced medicine in the Five Points community and was the first African American surgeon in Colorado, yet he was denied operating room privileges in every city hospital except the Jewish hospital, General Rose (now Rose Medical Center). Rachel Noel also encountered many closed doors in

Denver before taking a job with the Denver Human Rights Commission.

The couple persevered and by the time Rachel Noel won election to the Board of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) in 1965, she was already recognized for her work on behalf of children. She became the first African American to serve on the DPS Board and the first African American woman elected to public office in Colorado. Three years into her term, she introduced the famous Noel Resolution which called for the superintendent to develop a plan to integrate the Denver Public Schools. The resolution was precipitated by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rachel Noel noted that "when King died, rhetoric no longer seemed adequate." Her resolution brought death threats and after much community opposition, it passed in 1970. The United States Supreme Court eventually affirmed the intent of her resolution in its landmark decision of 1973, *Keyes v. Denver School District No. 1*, calling for mandatory desegregation of Denver's public schools, including busing for racial balance. The Denver Post noted that "the citizenry at large would debate the best means for achieving equality and opportunity for all its students—but that goal itself would never again be called into question." I would simply add that Rachel Noel's endeavors raised the bar. She moved the public policy debate in our community and this country from simply opening segregated schools to achieving a new balance—a new equity—in public education that did not previously exist. But extending the benefits of equal education to those who had been denied it was more than just enforcing laws. It was about redeeming lost futures and creating opportunity so that all young people could make the most of their lives and share in our prosperity.

Rachel Noel joined the faculty of Metropolitan State College in 1969. She taught sociology and African American studies and served as chair of the African American Studies Department from 1971 to 1980. In 1976, Governor Richard Lamm appointed Rachel Noel to serve on the University of Colorado Board of Regents and she was subsequently elected statewide in 1978 to become the first African American elected to the Board of Regents and serve as chair of the board. She also chaired Mayor Federico Pena's Black Advisory Council; served as a Commissioner of Denver Housing Authority; served on the Advisory Board of the United States Civil Rights Commission; served on Mayor Wellington Webb's Black Advisory Committee; and served as a member of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Health Sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Denver. She was also an active member of Shorter Community African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Links and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

In 1981, Rachel Noel was honored with the establishment of the Rachel B. Noel Distinguished Professorship to foster multiculturalism, diversity and academic excellence at Metropolitan State College. She was the recipient of numerous accolades and awards including: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award in 1990; induction into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 1996; the Wiley A. Branton Award from the National Bar Association in 2001; the Anti-Defamation League's Civil Rights Award in 2004; and the Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree

from the University of Denver. In 2002, the Denver Public Schools named a middle school in Northeast Denver in her honor, the Rachel B. Noel Middle School.

Rachel Noel was an unrelenting advocate for the causes that elevate the human condition and she served all of us with eminent distinction. She saw great opportunity for progress and seized it. She had the courage to tell us that we were not keeping faith with our nation's ideals and that we needed to move forward. Moreover, she knew that we as Americans have an enormous capacity to do better and that we have a moral obligation to do so. Truly, we are all diminished by the passing of this remarkable person.

Rachel Noel lived a life that is rich in consequence and we are better and stronger due to her labors on our behalf. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Angie, her son Buddy and her entire family. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Rachel B. Noel, a distinguished public servant and advocate for civil liberty.

CONGRATULATING FIRE CHIEF
JOE FLORENTINO OF LITTLE
ELM, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Little Elm, Texas Fire Chief Joe Florentino. Chief Florentino was recently appointed to the position as the first-ever State Coordinator of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System.

Chief Florentino was unanimously selected to fill the post for his work-related qualifications and his leadership abilities by representatives from fourteen fire-related statewide agencies. He originally applied to be one of the 24 regional coordinators, and was surprised by his appointment to State Coordinator. Although he recognizes the challenges that go hand in hand with being the first individual to hold this position, Chief Florentino is optimistic about the road that lies ahead.

The Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System, as an annex to Texas' emergency management plan, sets guidelines for responding to fire-related catastrophes that require more assistance than an area can provide. Chief Florentino will serve as the point of contact between those areas in need of support and the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System. Advocates of the program recognize the fact that Texas is on the forefront of this type of intrastate aid system, and hope that its successful implementation will lead to a similar nationwide system in the future.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Chief Florentino on this appointment and commend his dedication and desire to help his community and state. It is an honor to represent such a service-oriented citizen in the 26th District of Texas, and I know his commitment will serve as an example to others.

A STATEMENT HONORING THE
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's most courageous groups of men who fought during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen. These brave African American men refused to let discrimination topple their dreams as they fought to defend America during World War II and protect our freedom. They are nationally known for being the first group of black military airmen at a time when people believed all blacks lacked intelligence, skill, courage, and patriotism.

It was not until 1941 when the Tuskegee Airmen were given an opportunity to learn about aviation at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, founded by Booker T. Washington. There is no greater story of freedom and American democracy than that of the Tuskegee Airmen, who with bravery and courage fought for the freedom of this country and the world, while at home African Americans were second-class citizens.

Coming out of the Tuskegee Institute as some of the best and brightest of their programs, they went on to fight against all odds. These men were a vital part of the battles against the Luftwaffe in Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Germany. They flew more than 15,000 sorties, escorted bombers in raids against enemies over Europe and North Africa, and destroyed enemy targets and supply lines in Germany. Their efforts and successes in the Air Force directly influenced President Truman's decision to desegregate the U.S. military. Due to their patriotism and valor in World War II, on March 27, 2007, they received one of the highest honors in the United States, the Congressional Gold Medal.

So when anyone talks about the Tuskegee Airmen, it is more than just their flying. It is their extraordinary stand for courage in the face of difficulty. This month I salute the Tuskegee Airmen.

TRIBUTE TO JACK B. WEIL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Jack B. Weil. This exceptional citizen merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has improved the lives of many Coloradans.

Sadly, Jack Weil was taken from us by esophageal cancer and he will be greatly

missed. His passion for art, politics, business and his capacity for community service were immeasurable. He molded a life of genuine accomplishment and his passing is a great loss to our entire community.

Jack Weil was born November 13, 1928 at Denver's Mercy Hospital. He attended the University of Colorado and ultimately graduated from Tulane University in 1952. He joined the United States Army and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. After two years of service, he returned to Denver to join the family business, Rockmount Ranch Wear Manufacturing Company, a company founded by his father, the indomitable Jack A. Weil. Jack Weil was a businessman and a gifted artist whose vision and talent for textile designs helped expand the reach of the company beyond the Mississippi River. He created some of Rockmount's most iconic designs, including the shirt John Travolta wore in the movie "Urban Cowboy." Rockmount shirts have been worn by Bob Dylan, President Reagan, Elvis Presley and Robert Redford, among others. Jack Weil was a major force at Rockmount for fifty years and it has grown from one of the original early mercantile businesses in lower downtown Denver to an international company with clothing sold throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Australia.

Jack Weil was also a well-known abstract impressionist painter and his son, Steven Weil, noted that "There was nothing straight and narrow about him." He developed his own abstract style and he loved to share the art he created as well as the art he bought. In the 1960's, the Denver Art Museum hung one of Jack Weil's forward looking collages and his most recent exhibition was a twenty-canvas show at the Berkeley Park Art Gallery in northwest Denver last December.

Jack Weil was extremely active in politics and in the community. He was a party leader and held various posts in the Republican Central Committee and was a past secretary of the Colorado Republican Party. But Steven Weil noted that he "could not be cast into the mold of a classic conservative" as he served on the board of Colorado Republicans for Choice. In addition to being a leader in Western wear and equipment industry associations, Jack Weil was also very involved in education serving in various roles, including chair, of the Community College of Denver Foundation. Historic preservation was also an abiding interest and he served on the planning commissions for the Humboldt Island Historic District and Cheeseman Park. He also served on the board of the First Universalist Church and the membership committee of the Denver Athletic Club. In 2002, Jack Weil was the recipient of Tulane University's Alumni Recognition Award.

Please join me in paying tribute to Jack B. Weil, a distinguished citizen. His leadership has been exemplary and his contributions are rich in consequence. On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District, I wish to express our admiration and gratitude for the life of Jack Weil. Our thoughts are with Jack Weil

Sr., Steven Weil, Jane Romberg, Judy Oksner and his three grandchildren.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
WALTER DEACON**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Robert Walter Deacon, a beloved coach and community leader, and mourn him upon his passing at age 78.

Robert Deacon was born in Brooklyn, NY, on May, 30 1929. An accomplished athlete, Robert earned nine varsity letters in high school before attending Georgetown University and playing quarterback for their football team. When Georgetown discontinued their football program in 1953, Robert transferred to the University of Vermont where he played football and baseball, eventually earning a place in the school's Sports Hall of Fame for football.

After school, Robert dedicated his life to teaching children the values he cherished including hard work, sportsmanship, and fair play. Mr. Deacon served as a city parks and recreation commissioner and became a fixture of the Livonia baseball fields and basketball courts for decades, where he often found time to heckle opposing players, like me. Robert coached his five sons in little league baseball and basketball from the 1960s through the 1980s. While very competitive, as a coach, Robert always made sure to stress sportsmanship among his players and helped them learn from their mistakes. Following his retirement Robert worked as a field manager for many years on Livonia's Ford Field baseball diamonds and on basketball courts at George N. Bentley High School and then the community recreation center.

Regrettably on February 13, 2008, after a battle with lung cancer, Robert passed away. He will be remembered as a kind supportive man who was devoted to his family, especially his grandchildren. To his wife, Marjorie; his children Bob (Julie), Bill (Christine), Tom (Patricia), Tim (Caroline), and Kevin (Sue); his grandchildren David, Michelle, Andy (Christine), Jimmy, Peter, Hannah, Jackie, Mitchell, Matt, Caleigh, Rachel, Laura, and Charlie; his sisters Dorothy MacNaughton and Eileen Hartke; and to everyone who knew and loved him, he was a dedicated member of his community who will be truly missed.

Madam Speaker, during his lifetime, Robert Walter Deacon enriched the lives of everyone around him by serving as an exemplary role model and teacher. As we bid farewell to this extraordinary individual, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his years of loyal service to our community and country.