

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber today, Thursday, March 13, 2008, due to the travel schedule for my return to my district on account of official business. Had I been present for the three rollcall votes taken today in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union on the amendments that were offered in the nature of a substitute to House Concurrent Resolution 312, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, I would have voted as follows: "aye" on the amendment offered by Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (rollcall vote 137); "no" on the amendment offered by Ms. LEE of California (rollcall vote 138); and "no" on the amendment offered by Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (rollcall vote 140).

HONORING DAVID COURTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Courter a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David Courter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I agree with the President and although I oppose overriding the President's veto of this bill, I still don't agree with him. I am opposed to the override because I am opposed to H.R.

2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act. However, I reject the President's reasons for vetoing this legislation.

I want to thank all of those who served in gathering intelligence to protect the American people. However, I voted against the veto override because I do not support the underlying bill. Through the emergence of several high-profile classified leaks to the media it has become apparent that our intelligence agencies need to be reformed.

From these media leaks, we became aware of the efforts to manipulate intelligence, to falsify a cause for war against Iraq. We became aware of the illegal NSA domestic wiretapping program without a court order. We became aware of the rumored CIA detention centers in Eastern Europe, and the CIA's extraordinary rendition program, used to transport suspects to other nations with less restrictive torture policies. It is regrettable that intelligence is often reshaped to fit doctrine instead of doctrine being reshaped in the face of the facts of intelligence.

The President's opposition to H.R. 2082 was focused on his objection to a provision in the bill that would have required adherence to the Army Field Manual (AFM) on Interrogations by all 16 U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA. This provision would specifically prohibit acts of torture and abuse. The President's veto of the bill demonstrates a disconcerting disregard for human rights.

I fully support banning the use of interrogation techniques that are not authorized by the Army Field Manual on Interrogation. This provision in the Intelligence Authorization shows a commitment by the United States and this body to end torture that is sponsored by the U.S. and restore the rule of law.

This body and the President have a responsibility to take action to end all U.S. sponsored torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. Our constitution, federal criminal statutes and Senate-ratified treaties compel us to meet this goal. Both the laws and values of America demand an end to the abhorrent practice of torture.

Requiring our intelligence agencies to abide by the proven interrogation methods of the Army Field Manual on Interrogation is a first step to restoring public confidence at home and abroad.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR ROBERT A. WOLF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside 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. Robert A. Wolf is one of these individuals. On March 27, 2008 at the 108th Inaugural Dinner, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce will recognize Bob as the 2007 Citizen of the Year.

Bob is a principal in many firms active in the financing, development, building and sale of real estate both domestically and internationally, with banking and venture relationships in Western Europe and Japan.

Bob obtained a bachelors degree in business administration and concentrated his continuing education on the field of development. Areas of study and successful completion include real estate law and development, financing, marketing, syndication, business law, group investment and construction techniques. Bob has been successful in international financing, joint ventures and marketing programs. Bob has worked in all facets of development including superintendent, project manager, project engineer, sales manager, and broker before becoming a chief executive officer. This background has helped Bob to draw upon his experience when making any decision regarding a development or investment. He has also had "hands-on" experience in the approval processes at every level of government and is a recognized expert in the field of real estate development, infrastructure and financing. He is a nationally known and sought after speaker on these topics.

Bob has served as Vice Chairman of the City of Moreno Valley's Planning Commission, the County of Riverside Flood Control Commission for Zone Four, and Planning Commissioner for Riverside County. He has recently served as Undersecretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency for California, and has served as Chairman of the California Transportation Commission.

Bob is the author of "How to Become a Developer", a step-by-step description of the development process and the people involved, which was written for people who wish to enter the profession. Published by Crittenden Books, the book received excellent reviews including one from the Los Angeles Times. Bob and his family reside in Riverside, California, where they continue to be active and respected members of the community.

Bob's tireless passion for community development has contributed immensely to the betterment of Riverside, California. Bob served his country honorably in Vietnam and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

● 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.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this budget blueprint for the priorities it sets and the fiscal sanity it restores to our Nation's Capitol.

Seven years after President Bush inherited a projected 10-year \$5.6 trillion year budget surplus, the Congressional Budget Office now reports that the FY 08 budget deficit will be \$396 billion and the FY 09 budget deficit will total \$342 billion. These are the second and fourth largest budget deficits in U.S. history. Not coincidentally, the first and third largest budget deficits in U.S. history were also recorded during the Bush administration.

During the same period, our national debt has exploded by \$3.9 trillion to well over \$9 trillion—or more than \$30,000 for every citizen in the United States. In fact, each taxpayer is now paying over \$3000 every year just to pay the interest on their share of the national debt.

Astonishingly, this budget deterioration has coincided with dangerous disinvestment in our Nation's health, education, public safety, energy independence, veterans and basic scientific research—among other critically important priorities.

This budget document changes all that. It rejects the President's misguided cuts in health care for seniors and lower-income citizens. It increases our national investment in education and lifelong job training. It restores funding for State and local law enforcement. It prioritizes the development of next generation renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. It spares veterans the President's proposed fee increases for health care they have rightfully earned. And it provides robust funding for the Democratic innovation agenda to enhance our Nation's position in the global marketplace.

Importantly, this budget accomplishes these objectives while providing middle class tax relief to millions of hard-working Americans by patching the Alternative Minimum Tax and extending the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief and the 10 percent income tax bracket. Consistent with the PAYGO rules adopted by this House, this document achieves these public policy goals with no new deficit spending. And it brings our budget into balance in 2012.

Mr. Chairman, this budget represents a properly prioritized, fiscally responsible blueprint for the Nation's future. I urge its adoption and encourage my colleagues' support.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of the late Congressman Tom Lantos and his devotion to battling genocide and aiding its victims. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who, during his lifetime, made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation, and indeed, the world.

At the age of 16, Tom was taken by the Nazis as they stormed through Budapest in 1944. After two escapes from the Nazi work camps, he found refuge in a safe house and began working to help other Jews in hiding by gathering food and supplies.

Upon moving to the United States in 1947, Tom Lantos served in various capacities as an educator, consultant and political advisor to several Senators. In 1983, only 2 years after being elected to Congress, Congressman Lantos helped to found the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. During his final year of service to the House of Representatives, he served as the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chairman Lantos represented California's 12th Congressional District for 27 years in the House of Representatives and will be remembered as a champion of human rights.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. Chairman Lantos will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant.

He will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Annette, their two daughters, Annette and Katrina, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

A TRIBUTE TO MUCM WAYNE C.
TAYLOR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Wayne Taylor, Master Chief Musician of the United States Navy Band. Mr. Taylor is retiring on March 21, 2008, after a distinguished career as the lead singer for the U.S. Navy Band's premiere country-bluegrass group, Country Current.

Wayne joined the Navy for his first enlistment in 1974 and was assigned to the Aviation rating. He auditioned and was accepted into the Navy Music Program and received orders to the School of Music at Little Creek, Virginia. Upon graduating he reported for duty with the Seventh Fleet Band in Yokosuka, Japan, as lead vocalist and guitarist with the "Orient Express" Rock Band. He was stationed onboard the USS *Oklahoma City*. Throughout his 2 years in Japan, he traveled

to many Asian countries on 13 different ships. Wayne was honorably discharged in 1978 as a Musician 3rd Class.

When Wayne decided to re-enlist in the Navy in 1987, he auditioned for Country Current and has spent the last 20 years and 7 months as their lead singer. Country Current has performed in 49 of the 50 states, for four U.S. Presidents, three times at the Grand Ole Opry, for the "Nashville Now" show, Good Morning America, the Today Show, Wheeling Jamboree and Richmond Barn Dance. As a member of the Country Current Duo, he has performed at 13 Army-Navy football games and for distinguished military and civilian officials around Washington. Taylor sang the National Anthem to over 100,000 patrons at the Charlotte 600 NASCAR Race in Charlotte, NC, and at Comisky Park for a Chicago White Sox baseball game.

Wayne and his wife, Marrie, have two children; Wayne Coleman Taylor, Jr. (former Marine) and Terra Lee Ann Taylor, a Hospital Corpsman presently stationed in Earle, NJ. I am sure Members of the House will join me in thanking Wayne Coleman for his service to our country and for sharing his love of music with people throughout the world.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus Budget Substitute.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), and all our staff for their hard work on this effort. Our budget reflects the values and priorities of the American people.

The CBC Members represent some of the most conservative and most progressive people in this country. Some of us are from big cities; others come from tiny, little towns and farm lands. And every year we find a way to come together. Every year, we find a way to provide funds for the most important priorities of all our constituents.

If you care about health care; if you care about homelessness; if you care about education; then you will support this substitute. Our amendment includes an additional \$20 billion investment in education. And we provide an additional \$17 billion for health care.

In Georgia, the mortgage foreclosure crisis is devastating our communities. This budget includes an additional \$8 billion to assist with housing and services for families, this disabled, senior citizens, and children. Unlike the President's budget proposal, we increase services and security for our constituents. And we find a way to pay for it.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to really look at this legislation. Study our fact sheets; read the dear colleague letters. Then really think about your constituents, and think about how our budget will better all of their lives.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

CONGRATULATING THE WORK OF
MASTER DISTILLER JIMMY BED-
FORD

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate the life's work of Master Distiller Jimmy Bedford, the craftsman behind the smooth and distinct Jack Daniels whiskey that flows out of Lynchburg, Tennessee, every year.

For years, Jimmy studied his trade under the tutelage of one-time Master Distiller Frank Bobo. When Frank retired, Jimmy took the reigns of the milling, yeasting, fermentation, distillation, and charcoal mellowing of the long lived Jack Daniels recipe. For 20 years, Jimmy has safeguarded this Tennessee tradition in Lynchburg's quiet hollow as the sixth Master Distiller in Jack Daniels history.

Throughout Jimmy's tenure at the distillery, Jack Daniels has seen its yearly sales rise from under one million to nearly ten million cases in just forty years, with shipments going out to 135 countries around the world every year; but, no matter where people are drinking their whiskey, whether overseas, along the coasts or right in the heart of Tennessee, they know now, as they have for twenty years, that every bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey comes to them with Jimmy Bedford's approval.

This year, Jimmy will retire to his farm just two miles up the road from the distillery he served for so long. While it is sad to see him go, we can trust that Jimmy will leave this icon of Tennessee and American culture in the hands of an able and dedicated successor. Jimmy retires this month with our blessing, but it is my sincere hope that before he steps down we might impress upon him our gratitude for his stalwart preservation of this lasting Tennessee tradition.

HONORING MAYOR STAN
SCHAEFFER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a great community leader and a great friend.

Mayor Stan Schaeffer of Collinsville, Illinois, passed away March 7, 2008, at his home in Collinsville. Like so many of Stan's constituents, I knew him in many different capacities: not only did he serve our city as mayor for the last 9 years, he was also a city councilman, a teacher for over 40 years, and a coach of many sports teams.

Stan was dedicated to seeing our community and our region move forward. His tenure as mayor will be remembered as one during which Collinsville grew in population and grew economically through business development, but one during which our town remained the caring, close-knit community it has always been.

Many individuals forget that all the basic services we require—local government, police, fire, sanitation, local roads—come from local government. Collinsville faced many challenges during Stan's tenure. His optimistic outlook and his calm spirit is a path that future leaders should follow.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Liz, his daughter Carrie, his stepdaughters Linda, Paula and Jami, his stepsons Timothy and Scott, his fifteen grandchildren, and all those who mourn this day for our friend Stan. He devoted his life to his family and his community, and he left a positive mark on both. He will be dearly missed by all of us who had the privilege to know him.

TEXAS STUDENTS' INTERVIEWS
OF VETERANS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last fall I invited high school students living in the Third Congressional District to join the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The goal of the CYAC is to foster civic involvement and to encourage students to unleash their passions for America. Each meeting, they exceed my expectations and make me hopeful for the future.

The students who serve on the CYAC represent the best and the brightest in North Texas. Students are leaders, athletes, musicians, volunteers, and activists. They are the voice of their generation to Congress. They make a difference at each meeting and I'm proud of them.

For this year's community project, students interviewed a veteran and wrote essays. A summary of some of the submitted essays follows.

It is my hope that some day the Congressional Youth Advisory Council will be associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride for young people in North Texas. I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America and North Texas, will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

To the members of the 2007–2008 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Thank you. I salute you; God bless you and God bless America.

My interview was conducted with Mr. Allen B. Clark. He served in the United States Army as a Military Intelligence Officer for the Fifth Special Forces. He was able to help many of the operations in Saigon and give life to a Special Forces unit started by him. Mr. Allen Clark gave me a perspective of one who risked his life and sacrificed himself for ideals that he believed in. Further-

more, he is the first person whom I have met that has ever faced such adversity and still succeeded in everything he has done. The adjustments he had to make in order to accommodate his prosthetic legs and his spiritual revolution attest to the integrity and strength of his character. Mr. Clark taught me that one who faces adversity never uses it as an excuse to fail, but rather as a motivation for succeeding. If one has a dream, then it is never out of reach even if the odds are against you. Standing firm for principle, guides one in life and gives him direction to make the choices that will allow him to be satisfied with life.—Nabeel Lockmanjee

For my veteran's interview, I interviewed my grandfather, Theodore Wade Falconer. My grandfather served in the Navy from September 1948 to September 1952 and worked up the ranks from Seaman Apprentice to 2nd Class Petty officer. Ted was born in Portland, Oregon on January 19, 1929, but grew up in Coos Bay, Oregon. He joined the Navy after high school for two reasons: one, he couldn't afford to go to college, and two, the Navy had an exceptional electrical technician program. After going through boot camp for 13 weeks, Ted was shipped off to Treasure Island, where he went to a Navy electrician training school. After 42 weeks of training, he was then shipped off to the Naval Communication Station on Guam, where he spent 16 months stationed there, while stating that it had been the best experience of his Navy career. After spending 16 months in a Pacific paradise, Ted was then shipped off to Hunter's Point in San Francisco to re-commission an old World War Two troop transport for active service in the Korean War. After six months of training, his commission was up and he was discharged from the Navy. His post military career was a successful one where he earned his masters degree and went to work for Texas Instruments for 33 years before retiring. After talking to my grandfather about his military experiences, I saw a living example of all the good virtues a person can possess; integrity, discipline, work ethic, and respect. My grandfather is a perfect example of these traits, focusing his actions based on these virtues. With this, I learned about not only his military experiences, but also how important it is to use these core values as he used them throughout his life. Anchors aweigh.—Joshua Womboldt

Veterans have done a service for our country with their selfless acts during the war, regardless of how large or small their sacrifice was. Charles Pearson made his life the best that he could, and was part of the crucial moment of the Japanese surrender in World War II. As 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, Mr. Pearson was sent to Okinawa and fought the Japanese on the island for a lengthy period of time. After being sent to Guam to rebuild his division, Mr. Pearson and his men who survived the previous assignment were sent to Japan, just north of Tokyo Bay. Their mission was to verify the Japanese's surrender. Mr. Pearson and his men prepared for a possible attack from the enemy, even though an attack would result in a complete destruction of their ship. Bravely entering the enemy's territory, they were relieved that the Japanese had indeed surrendered. After the peace treaty was signed in 1945, Mr. Pearson was finally sent to China to help improve the economy and send the remaining Japanese back to Japan. In 1946, Mr. Pearson returned home. Since the war, Mr. Pearson has fulfilled his dreams by living a quiet and peaceful life on his family farm in Frisco, Texas.—Rena Sheng

Russell Friese was born in Alto-Pass, Illinois in 1915. After hearing many achievements about brave young men risking their lives for freedom, Mr. Friese decided to enlist and leave with the next shipment of

troops for training. He was asked to serve in both the Navy and the Marines but turned down both offers and asked to be stationed in the Army because he knew that he could be more constructive there. He was stationed at Fort Mead in Maryland before going overseas. He received umbilical hernia surgery during boot camp. He was a Private at the time; and his unit was taken overseas. They infiltrated "Hitler's hideout" in Salzburg, Austria. During one of the unit's firing missions, Private Friese jumped out of a tank and rolled his right knee. Since then he's had many surgeries and to this day he walks with a cane. He received two battle stars and ended his military career as First Sergeant. He was recently named Grand Marshall in September of 2007 on Veterans Day. Friese is 93 years old and currently lives in Anna, Illinois. Russell's story showed me how determination and love for the U.S. can win freedom for others to take pleasure in. He has encouraged me to stand up for what I believe in and to fight for those beliefs with vigor and passion. Russell's story told of values and beliefs that are in the government and in every American's goal for the future. He showed how perseverance can help you strive to achieve anything with a good heart if you are willing to do so. Finally if we work together as a team, we can all accomplish numerous tasks, and win a war or two.—Alexis Webber

I interviewed Peter Perry, a former Sergeant in the United States Army, and now a U.S. world history teacher for McKinney High School. During Mr. Perry's service he learned that " * * * I can do a lot more than I thought. It showed me many different kinds of people in the world than I had encountered previously. It gave me respect for the longer-term and career soldiers. Most important, it taught me how to take charge of my life, to organize, plan, overcome difficulties, and to persevere." Personally from this interview I gained experience learning how life will be for me within the next nine years. I am going to attend either the United States Naval Academy or the United States Air Force Academy next year and talking to veterans gives me a real outlook on what experiences I can look forward to in the future.—Sean W. Gent

Interviewing my grandfather was a life changing experience. Never before had I realized the importance of preserving our history of the United States armed forces. No matter how big or small an action, being a part of the military is something in which my grandfather is proud to say that he has been a part of. Growing up in a military family, my grandfather's transition into the army was not a foreign ideal. Having been familiar to the lifestyle of a soldier, it was easy for my grandfather to adjust to the sometimes harsh living conditions. However, regardless of the struggles, being in the military was an award winning experience. "The army has provided me with so many opportunities and advantages in which I am grateful for . . . it has also provided me with life learning lessons in which I will always carry with me . . . and continue to pass it on to my children . . . people often take for granted what the army does for them . . . being part of the U.S. armed forces is a big responsibility in protecting our country's freedom."—Mellissa Stepczyk

I interviewed Commander Martin Nell of the Plano VFW, who served in Vietnam as part of the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion of the 3rd Marine Division. He had a diverse range of experiences during his time in Vietnam, and he went into detail about the things he encountered and the people he met—American and Vietnamese—and their impact on him. He was in many combat situations and grew up rapidly during his time in

the service. His most poignant remark during our interview was that with regards to dying in battle, he accepted that fact, "When it's your turn, it's your turn." Talking with him was like traveling back in time, and I learned a lot from him about the turbulent era in which Vietnam cast a large shadow over and the cruel ways in which many of the veterans were treated after their brave service in Vietnam. Finally, when comparing his military life to his civilian life, he told me that "Everyday is a war. In Vietnam I fought for my country and nowadays I fight for my family." I will never forget that quote.—Nirjhor Rahman

Allen Clark has done a lot with his life. As the son of an Army father, he graduated from West Point in 1963 and went on to volunteer for action in the Vietnam War. While there, he set up a secret unit whose ultimate goal was espionage against Cambodia. During a mortar attack in 1967, Mr. Clark was severely wounded and lost both of his legs. Since then, he has suffered through depression and bouts with PTSD, but has always fought back and has become an extremely successful man. He has been awarded numerous medals, been very successful in business/politics, and is always busy with giving speeches in the DFW area. Interviewing a person who has traveled as far as him, both emotionally and physically, was an experience most do not get. I feel that I have learned a lot from Mr. Clark because he seems to have life figured out, and I'm very lucky to have met him and to be able to have spoken with him about his life's events and the way he reacted to them.—James MacGibbon

My name is Mark Macmanus, and I interviewed Major General Charles R. Bond of the United States Air Force. Second Lieutenant Bond found himself too old to get a commission, and that made getting into a fighter impossible. Until he heard about the American Volunteer Group in China, headed by Claire Chennault, he knew it was where he belonged. They had a fighter waiting for him. He quickly headed to China. Bond was thrilled to have his own P-40 Tomahawk. After World War II started, several battles and raids took place and his kills started to add up. It was May 4, 1942 where he gained fame among the now called Flying Tigers. During a bombing raid he quickly got off the ground ready to fight. He looked back to realize he was alone against 25 bombers. He took down 1 bomber, and then 3 Japanese Zeros shot him down. He had severe burns, but he continued to fight until July 4, 1942 when the AVG disbanded. For his valiant actions he received the British Distinguished Flying Cross. This story that was relayed to me was an experience that I will never forget. It showed me how many stories of soldiers there are, and how they are all heroes.—Mark Macmanus

Michael L. Coffman entered the Vietnam Conflict as an E1 Private, and returned as an E5 Specialist. He worked logistics in Europe during the war, and made sure that soldiers, military equipment, and supplies were where they needed to be at all times. When the time came that these men and supplies needed to be transported, he would make sure that the trains were at the right place and the right time, and that all the necessary clearances had been provided for the move. After this, he became a trainer to other trainers, instructing them on how to keep up with new army regulations, as they changed frequently. This experience taught me that not all soldiers that make a difference in the war do so with a gun. Had Mr. Coffman not been where he was, and doing what he did in the war, there would have been no soldiers to fight and no guns to use. This interview gave me a new perspective on the Vietnam Con-

flict as well. Not all of the soldiers were unhappy to be involved, nor did all soldiers consider it a negative experience. Some, like Mr. Coffman, gained valuable knowledge from their experience, and thoroughly enjoyed their time spent.—Jessica Huseman

I chose to interview David Ramsey, an Airborne Forward Air Controller in the Vietnam War. He received eight Air Medals, awarded for all the combat missions that he flew in. In addition to combat missions he flew various other types of missions such as escort missions. The hardest part for him while in Vietnam was having to be away from his family for all that time. The best part for him was that he enjoyed the high levels of patriotism that his fellow soldiers and officers had. From interviewing him I learned that there is more to being in the military than just shooting the enemy. There is teamwork involved and friendships made in the military, as well as fun to be had. I never knew that the military was like this; I always envisioned it as just shooting at enemies.—Kevin Zimmer

Veteran Dr. Randall Friese proudly served his country as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Friese became interested in the military when he received a naval scholarship to complete his medical residency. As a battalion surgeon, Dr. Friese served in operations around the world, including Operation Southern Watch in 1998. One of Dr. Friese's most memorable experiences was the opportunity to travel. His assignments included a position at a naval hospital in Japan and stations in the Middle East, California, Dubai, and United Arab Emirates. Dr. Friese's service ended in July 2001, and since then, he has become an assistant professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. As a surgeon and researcher in trauma and critical care, Dr. Friese has published several papers. His research on disruptions in Intensive Care Unit patients' sleep was featured in the December 2007 issue of the *Journal of Trauma: Injury, Infection and Critical Care*. Grateful of the opportunity to serve his country, Dr. Friese would recommend his experience in the Navy to young Americans. After interviewing him, I gained a greater appreciation and understanding of the many sacrifices of our soldiers.—Amanda Lu

Many citizens have carried a passionate gratitude towards the United States government and have risked their lives in order to better our nation. Eugene N. Close is a proud, decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. He served as a team leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 327th Infantry, in Thua Thien Province in Vietnam. The war caused much turmoil and many people disapproved of it and did not support it. What happened there to Mr. Close has marked him for life as it has too many other people. On April 21, 1970, Mr. Close's platoon came under a "sudden small arms fire" from four enemy soldiers. He was stuck by an enemy round but regardless of his wound, Sergeant Close continued to fire and saved the rest of his squad. It is this act of heroism that makes America what it is today, to sacrifice their lives for not only our freedom, but also for our pride, dignity and honor. After conversing with Mr. Close, I have learned the sacrifices people make for their country on a daily basis and how we must not take this for granted. Veterans Day now has a larger meaning to me and I admire the soldiers that are willing to risk their lives for us. The very least we can do is to give them our gratitude, hearts and minds for simply a day. Samaritans such as Eugene M. Close have risked and given far beyond anything we can wish to do ourselves.—Sibel Kayaalp

Charles B. Unger was born in Illinois to Robert Williams and Ida Mae Unger and grew

up with two brothers and a sister. At the age of 23, he was drafted into the Vietnam War. Although his family was uneasy about the draft, they supported him. First, he attended Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for basic boot camp and training. The hardest thing about this time was that he was ripped away from his daily life, and thrown into a life of rules, schedules, and tough workouts. But he also trained with helicopters in Ft. Virginia, which led him to working at the helicopter bases while stationed in Vietnam. From January of 1970 to December of 1970, he worked 13 hour days, 7 days a week, taking soldiers out, flying them in, and doing aircraft maintenance.

While most of it was sheer boredom, there were also times with unexpected terror. There was always the threat that his base at Camp Evans could be attacked. Thankfully it wasn't, and he was able to return home 2 days before Christmas in 1970. He still carries the values and lessons he learned during the war and it has helped him to be successful in life. After telling his story, he concluded by saying that what we have in this country is valuable, and we better be willing to fight for it. Charles and many other men were able and willing to fight for our protection and I value the courage it took to do so. I can only hope that the future generations, no matter how anti-war they might be, will be willing to fight for our freedoms and protect this beautiful country.—Erin McGranahan

Antonio Molina served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam conflict in 1972. After growing up in southern California, he enlisted himself in the Navy at the age of seventeen as a seaman recruit (E-1) and left as a Commander (O-5E). He helped with the evacuation and dismemberment of military bases during the withdrawal of troops from the region. In addition, he helped to clean up many of the mines and other weapons left by troops as they were withdrawing. After leaving the service, he eventually joined a local reserve unit where he attended flight and officer school. He now works in Hollywood using his military and technical experience to create films and spends time stressing the importance of veterans' issues including the existence of post-traumatic stress disorder among the returning troops. This experience stressed the importance of realizing the impact combat situations have on the young minds of our men and women who are fighting in conflicts worldwide from Vietnam veterans to current Gulf War veterans. We owe it to them to help them readjust to life back in the United States just as we help them to adjust to life in conflict.—Laura Rector

In hearing a veteran's story, we become more appreciative of the freedoms soldiers fight to protect every day. I had the privilege of hearing the story of Specialist 4th Class Gary Herrin of the 101st Airborne, 326th Battalion of the United States Army. Herrin was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas and was drafted into the Army in 1968 to fight in Vietnam. He fought in the Battle of Hamburger Hill, placing C4 and grenades in the North Vietnamese bunkers as the infantry charged up the hill to clear the way for his battalion which followed behind. Specialist Herrin was also involved in numerous reconnaissance missions to scout out sites for potential firing bases. If a site was chosen, Herrin and his unit would clear the plot and construct bunkers. On one particular reconnaissance mission, Herrin was knocked off his feet by the concussion of a rocket-propelled grenade and he sustained a bullet wound in the leg as Viet Cong trackers opened fire on his unit. Ironically, Specialist Herrin believes to this day that had the RPG not knocked him off his feet, he would have been a standing target for the V.C. bullets

and probably would have been killed. Specialist Herrin's story brought me to realize that there are people we encounter every day with a story of heroic service to tell. They are seemingly ordinary people that have done the extraordinary by sacrificing their time and possibly their lives to ensure that their fellow Americans and others around the world are safe and free. We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude and I hope that one day I too can serve my country in an honorable fashion as our soldiers do every day.—Patrick Ivey

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELKINS/RANDOLPH COUNTY YMCA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA located in West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

For the past century, the Elkins YMCA has played an integral role in the history of the community and its people. The YMCA building was originally built with \$25,000 donated by Mrs. Hallie Davis Elkins, the wife of a prominent West Virginia capitalist, Stephen B. Elkins. During the outbreak of World War I and World War II, local troops were reviewed for mobilization in front of the YMCA. The Y building was also used as a training facility for the National Guard between World War I and World War II.

Throughout its many renovations over the next 50 years, the original structure still stands in place to serve the youth, families, and senior citizens as the county's premier recreation and community center. The Elkins YMCA has the proud distinction of being one of three YMCA facilities to serve a city with a population under 10,000.

On March 22, 2008 friends and members of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA will celebrate its 100th anniversary and name its newest addition, the Legg Family Youth Center.

I would like to recognize all of those who were a part of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA 100 year history and wish the members and friends of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA congratulations in celebrating its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MS. LAURA-LYNN VIEGAS DACANAY AS THE 2008 FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Laura-Lynn Viegas Dacanay on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam.

Laura is a leader in the financial services industry of the region and is a committed member of our island community. She has a re-

warding career in the banking profession dating back to the 1970s, when she began with an entry level position at Chase Manhattan Bank as a telephone switchboard and telex operator and cashier. In 1984, she became a loan officer and later was promoted to loan manager. In 1986, she joined the First Hawaiian Bank as an assistant branch manager.

In just over 10 years, Laura has been promoted from manager to assistant vice president, and today, to senior vice president of the Guam and Northern Marianas region. Under her leadership, First Hawaiian Bank has had outstanding performance ratings. She has increased residential funding to over \$8 million, managed the acquisition of accounts and employees of Union Bank of California on Guam and Saipan, and paved the way for the opening of the Tamuning branch and off-site ATMs.

Laura is active in our community and she is the current chairwoman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she chairs the Family Selection Committee of Habitat for Humanity. She serves as an advisor to the Guam Visitors' Bureau 5-Year Strategic Plan Task Force, Strategic Economic Development Council in Saipan, the USO Advisory Council, and Andersen Civilian Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association and Guam Board of Realtors Association.

Laura's expert knowledge of banking and finance has resulted in business success for her banks and quality financial services for our community. I commend her commitment to serving our people, and I congratulate her as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam.

INTRODUCTION OF EMERGENCY WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE ACT OF 2008

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008. This bipartisan bill, introduced by Chairman PETERSON and I, along with five other original sponsors, is a fiscally responsible solution to the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior wildfire budget dilemma.

The Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008 creates a new fund to pay for firefighting while setting strong standards for containing costs and holding the agencies accountable.

There's no question that firefighting costs will continue to rise in the future, given the current overly-dense condition of our forests and the fact that more people are moving into these heavily forested areas. Last year, over 9 million acres across the country went up in smoke, costing the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior over \$1.5 billion to suppress.

This does not mean that Congress should simply give the agencies a blank check to cover these rising costs. This bill sets up a funding structure to balance the need for more funding with the need for accountability.

As firefighting costs are increasing, the Forest Service and Department of the Interior's

budgets are not. This means that non-fire accounts are cut as more money is shifted to fight fires. Last year, wildfire expenses amounted to 48 percent of the total Forest Service budget. In the 1990's wildfire constituted only 13 percent.

Since 2000, Forest Service resources for managing recreation, wildlife, and timber in our national forests have been cut by roughly 23 percent. Programs that assist the Nation's 10 million family forest owners with forest management are facing a 58-percent cut this year alone because of the rising firefighting costs. These drastic funding reductions mean that it's nearly impossible for the agencies to fulfill their missions.

In addition to addressing the rising firefighting costs, the Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act provides new tools for reducing fire risks and getting ahead of the game to reduce costs over the long term. First, the bill provides the Forest Service with permanent authority to contract with States to reduce wildfire risks across boundary lines. This authority, commonly called "good neighbor" authority, has been tested successfully in Colorado and Utah for the past several years, accomplishing much-needed hazardous fuels reduction work in severely fire-prone areas. This work is done in compliance with all environmental laws. Since wildfires don't stop at boundary lines, this tool is about making sure the Federal land management agencies are good neighbors to their State and private partners.

The bill also encourages local communities to step up to the plate and reduce wildfire risks. Under this authority, the Secretary would give priority in Federal funding to communities that have taken proactive steps to make their homes and communities fire-ready.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move this important legislation forward.

WOMEN IN THE TEXAS PETRO-
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: PAT
AVERY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to pay tribute to a personal friend, Ms. Pat Avery, Administrative Manager of Total Petrochemicals. Patricia Avery came into this world a double minority—black and female, but that didn't stop her from pursuing her dream of making it in an industry dominated by white males.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, she was surrounded by people who looked like her. When she graduated from high school, and stepped off of the plane in Iowa, to attend college at Drake University, that all changed. She was among the first women to live on the fourth floor of the university's Goodwin-Kirk Hall, previously an all male dorm. Ms. Avery graduated from Drake University, with an undergraduate degree in biology and a graduate degree in public administration.

After graduating from college, Ms. Avery joined Church's Fried Chicken, Inc., as a Personnel Assistant and later Regional Personnel Manager. She noted, "You may not start out

where you want to be in your career, but take advantage of every opportunity and make the best of it." Five years later, she took the helm of corporate personnel management at Bleyle of America, Inc., a German company that manufactures international women's better sportswear. Pat then joined Mobil as an employee relations representative in Houston and quickly began her march up the corporate ladder. She served as employee relations advisor at Mobil's plastic packaging division in New York. She became the first woman and first minority manager of employee relations at Mobil's chemical specialty division in Beaumont, the first woman and minority manager of employee relations at Mobil's Mining and Minerals Co. in Houston, and manager of Human Resources at Mobil's Polyethylene Plant in Beaumont.

Ms. Avery joined Total's Port Arthur Refinery in March of 1998, again as the first woman and minority on their management team. As the Administrative Manager, she manages the refinery's human resources department, as well as the accounting, security, training, labor relations, purchasing, warehouse, contracts, and public affairs activities. She admits, "I have been the first female and the first African-American throughout my entire career in my industry and really in all of the industries I have worked in. Having been the first and the only in many jobs that I have had has been bittersweet. It was lonely, awkward, challenging, very scary, and extremely hard at times, but it was also invigorating, exciting, rewarding, and historic. I don't want to give the impression that it all happened in perfect order. That is far from the truth. Many times, I wanted to run back into the comfort of my own community where I felt safe, but I didn't. It's one of the most significant lessons I've learned: Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

As busy as she is, Ms. Avery still finds time to serve the community. She is involved in numerous projects and serves as a Board Member with Communities in Schools; United Way of South County; Art Museum of Southeast Texas; the Texas Association of Business; Lamar Institute of Technology Foundation Board; Julie Rogers Gift of Life Board; and Inspire, Encourage, and Achieve Board. She is the Vice Chair of the Golden Triangle Business Roundtable, and also served as their Safety Committee Chairperson for 5 years.

Ms. Avery was appointed by Mayor Evelyn Lord to the Beaumont Board of Adjustments, and reappointed by Mayor Becky Ames. She currently co-chairs Golden Triangle Days in Austin for the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce and will again be co-chair in 2009. She chaired the Texas Museum Blowout in 2007; is a member of the Port Arthur Rotary Club; and will be President of the 2009/2010 Season of the Symphony of Southeast Texas. In addition, Ms. Avery serves on my Service Academy Board. From 1999–2002, she served on the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce Board. She was recognized as Business Advocate of the Year in 2002 by Lamar State College's Small Business Development Center, and is a graduate of the 2000 class of Leadership of Southeast Texas.

Madam Speaker, Pat Avery, a former high school track star and cheerleader, found her niche by helping people through employee relations and management. She is a pioneer in the male dominated petrochemical industry, and I am proud to celebrate her accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GAMBLE
HOUSE UPON ITS ONE-HUN-
DREDTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gamble House upon the occasion of its one-hundredth anniversary.

The Gamble House was designed by American Arts and Crafts architects Charles and Henry Greene. The Greene brothers have left an indelible impression on the design heritage of California houses, and their influence is most evident in their best-preserved work, the Gamble House in Pasadena, California.

The Greene brothers' distinctive style was deeply influenced by Japanese architecture and the English Arts and Crafts Movement, and is visible in the distinguished treatment of wood, stone, shingle, and brick. They designed all aspects of the house with assistance from notable European-trained craftsmen, John and Peter Hall, who elevated their exquisite designs to high levels of artistic excellence both throughout the house and in all the joinery, furniture, and decorative arts.

Construction on the Gamble House began in 1908. In January of 1909, the owners, David and Mary Gamble, moved in. The house was inhabited by the Gamble family for over fifty years, and remained their property until 1966, when the Gamble heirs, led by James N. Gamble, deeded the house to the City of Pasadena in a joint agreement with the University of Southern California's School of Architecture.

Boasting nearly 30,000 visitors annually, the Gamble House continues to play a leading role in educating the public about a unique part of Pasadena's heritage, as well as the history of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The Docent Council of the Gamble House, formed in 1967, encompasses a group of volunteers who aid with the cultural and educational components of the Gamble House. The Friends of the Gamble House, founded in 1972, is composed of individuals and organizations whose purpose is to financially support the house and its programs. Some of the programs include the Scholars in Residence Fellowships, the Junior Docent Program, and participation in the Museums of the Arroyo Day celebration.

In 1974 the Gamble House was named a California State Historic Landmark, and four years later the United States Department of the Interior designated the Gamble House a National Historic Landmark. The house has been preserved with the help of the James N. Gamble Preservation Fund.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the Gamble House upon its one-hundredth anniversary, and to congratulate the staff and volunteers who keep the facility open for the public's education and enjoyment.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOWSON UNIVERSITY ANNUAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCES (TUgis) CONFERENCE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of its 21st annual TUgis Conference, I rise today to recognize Towson University for its excellence in geographic information sciences.

In 1984, Dr. John M. Morgan III, with tremendous vision, created a GIS lab at Towson University. He hosted the first statewide GIS conference in 1988. Since then, the Towson University Center for Geographic Information Sciences, CGIS, has grown to include approximately 35 full-time, degreed professionals dedicated to assisting government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations that use GIS to carry out their mission. As the program has grown in size, its reputation has also grown. CGIS has developed strong partnerships with several organizations throughout Maryland and has attracted first-rate students to Towson University who are interested in CGIS and its enormous potential.

The theme for TUgis 2008 is "Democratizing GIS: New Tools for Meeting the Public Demand for Geospatial Information." As a member of Congress, I have been interested in better understanding the needs of those I represent. One way I have been able to gain this understanding is through geospatial information about my district. One of our interns, Matthew Sadecki, who will be graduating from Towson University with a master's in GIS, has been able to construct maps of the district displaying a wide range of information. These maps help me to visualize statistical information related to the geographical layout of Maryland's Third Congressional District and better address the needs of those who live there.

Madam Speaker, I want to again thank Dr. Morgan and Towson University for all they have done to advance GIS to its current form and wish them great success with all they have yet to achieve.

IN TRIBUTE TO EARL MCPHAIL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ventura County, California, Agricultural Commissioner Earl McPhail, who has the distinction of being the longest serving Agricultural Commissioner in the history of the State of California.

Now, after 29 years of regulating Ventura County's agricultural industry, Earl has decided to retire. He leaves a large set of shoes to fill.

In 2006, the value of agricultural products produced by Ventura County's 2,300 farms and ranches was more than \$1.5 billion. That's an increase of more than \$282 million from the previous year. The county's top three crops in 2006 were strawberries, nursery stock, and lemons.

Earl and the 40 people who work for him enforce state and local regulations on pesticides, worker safety, and other agricultural issues, as well as inspecting flowers and produce for pests before they're shipped to other parts of the state and nation and internationally. It's a huge job with a tremendous economic impact for Ventura County, but Earl has always done it with a calmness that belies his tough resolve in protecting the industry and the industry's consumers.

Earl is a native Southern Californian who graduated with a degree in agricultural biology from the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. He serves as president of the California Agricultural Commissioners/Sealers Association and is a member of the Ventura County Farm Bureau. He is a past member of the Ventura County Environmental Review Report Committee, Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee for National Association of Counties, the Ventura County Management Association Board of Directors, and the Santa Paula Future Farmers of America Advisory Committee.

He is equally active outside the agricultural arena. He is an elder for the Santa Paula First Christian Church and chairman of its Board of Directors. Earl serves as a coach for the Saint Bonaventure High School Baseball League, and is a past member of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 304, Advisory Committee and the National Association of Republican County Officials.

In addition, Earl is past treasurer of the Santa Paula Little League, past president of the Santa Paula Rotary Club, past president of the Ventura County Fair, Board of Directors, and past chairman of the Ventura County 4H Sponsoring League.

Earl has earned his retirement and we thank him for three decades of professionalism and dedication to an industry and community that has grown tremendously during his tenure. I have no doubt he will continue to serve the community and be an elder statesman for the industry.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in wishing Earl and his wife, Willa, the best in the years ahead. Godspeed, my friend.

HONORING JOSHUA JAMES MURPHY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua James Murphy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua James Murphy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AERIE #1758

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to the members and leadership of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1758 in Waynesboro on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

One-hundred years ago, citizens of Waynesboro organized Aerie #1758 with a simple objective, to "make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness, and hope." They have succeeded!

Over the last 100 years, the Eagles have been an integral part of the Waynesboro community—providing civic leadership, raising funds for children, the elderly, and medical research, and improving the borough in ways great and small. The Eagles have made Waynesboro an immeasurably better place to live, work, and raise families.

I would like to thank the Waynesboro Fraternal Order of Eagles for all they have done for Waynesboro, the state, and the country. Congratulations to the members and leadership of Aerie #1758 and to Eagles who have assembled from across the country to be in Waynesboro on this occasion. Best wishes to them for the next 100 years and beyond!

RECOGNIZING DR. JASON BIGGS FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and commitment of Dr. Jason Biggs to our community of Guam. Dr. Biggs' scholarly achievements and his commitment to youth outreach and educational programs are appreciated by educators and students on Guam. Today he serves as an assistant professor in the University of Guam's Marine Laboratory and is the first Chamorro to hold a tenure-track position within the Marine Lab. He is the son of Joel G. Biggs and Anita R. Cruz.

Dr. Biggs is a graduate of George Washington High School and the University of Guam (UOG), both located in the village of Mangilao, Guam. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from UOG. This academic foundation prepared him to pursue an advanced degree at the University of Utah, and in 2005 he successfully earned his doctor of philosophy in pharmacology and toxicology. Dr. Biggs brings his knowledge and love of learning to our university and our schools. He is a superb role model to our young people.

Dr. Biggs works to promote science and scientific careers to youth through outreach programs. He has authored a textbook designed to introduce concepts in chemistry, biology, and biodiversity to elementary school students to encourage learning through interactive experiments.

Dr. Biggs served in various professional capacities as he pursued his doctorate. He participated in important research as a Molluscan DNA-Barcoder and Specialist of Chemical Ecology of Conidae for the Museum of Natural History in Paris. This research project brought him to the South Pacific country of Vanuatu where he worked with 50 other marine scientists. Dr. Biggs also worked as a forensics consultant for the office of Forensic Science, New Jersey State Police and he now brings these forensic skills to assist in local police efforts.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate Dr. Jason Biggs for his achievements and his service to our island community. I look forward to hearing of his future academic successes at the University of Guam and his future contributions to our island.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse for their dedication to protecting the safety, security and dignity of America's most vulnerable citizens.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) is a multidisciplinary association of researchers, practitioners, educators, and advocates dedicated to protecting seniors. In 1988 Dr. Rosalie Wolf founded NCPEA and served as its President until her passing 2000. Under her guidance and the leadership of her successors, Randolph Thomas and Pam Teaster, NCPEA kept diligently pursued its mission to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons and adults with disabilities through research, advocacy, public and professional awareness, interdisciplinary exchange, and coalition building.

In 1989 NCPEA published the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, what is now the Nation's leading source of information on research and practice in the field. NCPEA has devoted itself to, and impacted the national debate on elder abuse prevention in a manner that has proved to be both substantial and comprehensive. NCPEA has participated in forums to set national policy to various Institutions such as the National Institute of Medicine, the Department of Justice and the Health Resources and Services Administration. In addition, they have forged a strong international presence and including participation in the United Nations Year of the Older Person, leadership involvement with the United Kingdom Action on Elder Abuse, Latin American Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse as well as the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

It has been my honor to work closely with NCPEA in the past 5 years. NCPEA was one of the five founding organizations of the bipartisan Elder Justice Coalition, and as the sponsor of H.R. 1783, the Elder Justice Act, I am proud to have their support and grateful for

NCPEA's consistent leadership in the work of the Coalition.

On March 28, 2008, NCPEA will celebrate their 20th anniversary with a celebration right here in our Nation's capital, and I am proud to recognize NCPEA's 20 years of dedication to the protection and safety of our aging population.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate NCPEA on their 20th year of hard work on behalf of our Nation's seniors, and I wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING TARAN RAY WINNIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taran Ray Winnie, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taran Ray Winnie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly voted yesterday against the substitute budget offered by Ms. LEE of California. I express that reluctance because this substitute included a number of individual provisions that I am very proud to support.

I strongly applaud the fact that the substitute budget included full funding for vital education programs, including No Child Left Behind. I believe Congress must continue working toward the goal of eliminating unfunded mandates. For too long, President Bush and his Republicans supporters have forced local communities to bear the brunt of the cost of No Child Left Behind's mandates. This has caused undue stress on local government's budgets, and led to an unacceptable increase in local property taxes in the nineteenth district of New York and across the country.

I'm also proud to support the commitment this bill has for full, guaranteed funding for veterans' healthcare. The ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a new generation of veterans with new healthcare needs. We must make sure that the VA healthcare system will accommodate this new influx of patients, while continuing to provide high quality care for veterans from previous generations. As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am committed to the fact that the VA must honor the pact we make with our soldiers; if they fight to defend our Nation, our Nation will always make sure they have the care they need.

I was also pleased that the substitute budget included additional steps to provide more immediate help to those people struggling to deal with our troubled economy. I was proud to support the bipartisan economic stimulus package when it passed the House earlier this year, and while it was a good start, I believe we need more relief specifically targeted to working and middle class families who are feeling the worst right now. Relief for these people will only come from our commitment to increasing assistance for unemployment insurance, food stamps, Federal Medical Assistance Percentage payments to states, and housing assistance as is contained in the substitute budget.

Although I've highlighted these specific provisions, there are a number of other highly commendable parts of this amendment I would have been proud to support. The proposal includes much-needed provisions to crack down on corporate welfare and a commitment to expand health coverage to all Americans, which I wholeheartedly support. It also includes the repeal of the Bush tax cuts, which have helped to put us on the path to fiscal ruin while providing no relief for working families.

I strongly support these provisions, and would embrace the opportunity to vote for them. Unfortunately, after years of Republican rule, our Nation finds itself in the midst of a fiscal nightmare, and I believe the only way to restore some semblance of financial discipline is through the admirable budget that chairman SPRATT has put together. It is a difficult decision, but one I do not make lightly. I am also concerned that the substitute amendment failed to include much needed reform of the AMT. The AMT unnecessarily burdens over 30,000 families in my district and threatens to dip further into the middle class. Any budget that fails to deal with the AMT fails to deal with one of our most pressing national concerns.

The underlying budget resolution, which I did vote for, contains significant funding increases for many of the programs I have discussed. The resolution also balances the budget and provides vital AMT relief for taxpayers. In light of our difficult fiscal situation, I believe that the underlying budget represents a strong step forward, and I believe it was deserving of my support.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 312, the House Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2009.

There are a number of reasons why the President's budget was considered "dead on arrival" by Members of this House. I can think of five off the top of my head—(1) \$200 billion in cut funding over 5 years from Medicare and Medicaid; (2) \$570 million in cut funding from the Low Income Home Heating Assistance Program; (3) \$800 million cut from the Federal-Aid Highways Administration; (4) \$85 million from the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and 5) \$59 million cut from the Migration and Refugee Assistance. The icing on the cake—the President proposed freezing spending for the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Institutes of Health.

If this is not a sign that this President is out of tune with the American people, then I would advise this President that he spend more time reading the mail that comes to his office and less time on his ranch in Crawford.

With today's budget resolution, the House is holding true to its commitment to the American people and the priorities of our families. Frankly, there is no excuse to continue to neglect the families that need help from their government.

Recently the Congressional Budget Office projected that under the current policies of this administration the budget deficit will reach \$396 billion in 2008 and \$342 billion in 2009. These are the second and fourth largest deficits ever. I would remind my colleagues that when this administration took office we were fortunate to have a projected \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus. For a President who continues to advocate for fiscal responsibility, it appears to me that he has not followed his own advice.

Currently, 80 cents of every dollar of new debt since 2001 is owed to foreign investors. This is not a trend that we will let continue. Unlike the Bush administration, the Democratic Budget will be balanced by 2012 and will remain in balance in 2013. Furthermore, we will reduce the deficits over the next 5 years while continuing to follow pay-as-you-go.

The Democratic Budget also holds true to its commitment to our veterans by increasing funding for 2009 by \$3.6 billion above the current level. At the same time that the administration is demanding more and more from our troops, they have also shamefully proposed \$18 billion over 5 years in new fees for veterans and military retirees. Our troops have served in Iraq and Afghanistan honorably and dutifully and they deserve to come home to quality health care and strong education bene-

fits. This budget will allow the VA to treat 5.8 million patients in 2009, 333,275 of which are Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

On January 20, the Commission on the Guard and Reserve issued a report announcing that the military is not ready for a catastrophic attack on the country. More worrisome is the conclusion that the National Guard is ill-trained and ill-equipped to handle the job. The Democratic budget addresses this issue by focusing on improving military readiness and enhancing the pay and benefits for our troops in order to improve their quality of life.

In the last 7 years, this Administration has failed to support our first responder programs, firefighter assistance grants and the Community Oriented Policing Services. The Democratic budget proposes to reverse this trend by placing a high priority on restoring funding. It is imperative that while we are assisting those abroad with their security needs, that we are also supporting our own domestic security needs.

I am proud to say that this budget proposal will also follow through on our commitment to expand children's health insurance coverage by providing a \$50 billion increase to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) so that we can provide healthcare to millions more children who otherwise would go uninsured. As we all witnessed last year, the President vetoed legislation expanding SCHIP on two occasions. In my home state of Michigan we have seen the number of uninsured increase to 10.7 percent of Michigan's population. Rather than making healthcare coverage less accessible, Congress must be doing everything it can to ensure that every individual who wants healthcare coverage has the means to get it.

The Democratic budget also rejects the proposed \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. There is no doubt that this President does not place the health of our families on the top of his priority list, however, his budget did ensure that his fat cat friends in the insurance industry would still receive the overpayments to private managed care plans. I am pleased to say that the House has proposed \$1.9 trillion in mandatory spending programs, including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

As we have seen college costs and tuitions skyrocket, this President has proposed freezing funding to the Department of Education. The President has again failed to provide funding for No Child Left Behind (NCLB), providing only \$24.6 billion for 2009, making the cumulative shortfall for NCLB \$85.6 billion. On top of this, the President has proposed cutting Teacher Quality State Grants by \$100 million. At a time when we are asking our teachers and schools to meet rigorous standards of NCLB, how can we cut funding from a program designed to assist with professional development?

The Democratic budget rejects these cuts by providing \$7.1 billion for education and job training above the President's proposal. If we want to turn our economy around we must have workers that are well-trained and equipped to compete in the global market. However, to do so we must address rising college costs. In the last year the average tuition and fees to attend a four-year in-state public college increased 6.6 percent to \$6,185, and for a four-year private college families are fac-

ing a bill of \$23,712. This budget resolution will help parents and students pay for college raising the maximum Pell grant and continuing Perkins Loans and Supplemental Opportunity Grants.

The Democratic budget provides funding that is crucial for job creation. As we have seen here at home, our economy is heading towards a recession. From 2001–2006 alone, Michigan lost 235,000 jobs, many of them high-paying manufacturing jobs. With the rising unemployment rate, it is clear that we need to invest in our workers and new industries that would promote job creation here at home.

This budget provides critical funding for the America COMPETES Act increasing funding for math and science education and research. The Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which was drastically cut under the President's budget, will receive continued funding which will help to retain 37,000 jobs. It also supports the trade adjustment assistance program, which would provide 130,000 workers with both income support and access to training.

In the past year we have witnessed the danger of our neglected infrastructure in the tragedy of the Minneapolis bridge collapse. Until the next surface transportation bill, we must ensure that our roads and bridges are receiving the funding and support needed to be safe and secure for our communities. We must also address the negative effects of the rising costs in fuel. Congestion on our roads has resulted in 26 gallons of wasted fuel per person, costing our constituents \$78 billion annually.

Over the years we have heard time and again from the President that we must decrease our dependence on foreign oil, yet he has proposed cutting funding for our highway and transit programs, mass transit expansions and Amtrak by \$2 billion below authorized levels. The Democrats will not stand for this and instead propose increasing the investment in transportation infrastructure by \$41.2 billion for highway programs, \$10.3 billion for transit, \$1.3 billion for highway safety and \$3.9 billion in airport improvement grants. This will save our constituents delays on the roads and in the airports and reduce pollution and fuel needs.

Just this week it was announced that Michigan is sixth in the nation for foreclosures; nationally almost 2.8 million homeowners are at risk of losing their homes to foreclosures. Last year the House passed legislation that would create an affordable housing fund, which is currently awaiting Senate consideration. This budget takes a step forward by providing needed funding for the \$2.8 billion shortfall for the project-based rental assistance program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and provides funding for tenant-based rental assistance.

The Democratic budget would also help those that are struggling with home heating costs by rejecting the President's cut to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistant Program. Since 2001, home heating costs have gone up by 80 percent. There is no reason our families should be choosing between groceries and heat during the tough winter months.

While the President can propose cutting funding, Congress will continue to provide funding for bipartisan programs such as our water and natural resources programs. This budget rejects the proposed \$2.9 billion in cuts and instead invests in water infrastructure that

will promote and protect our clean and safe drinking water supplies.

The Democratic budget provides tax relief for the middle class families that need it most. The Democratic budget will continue the tax cuts for the middle class, while also preventing 20 million families from being subject to the alternative minimum tax.

Finally, earlier this year, I wrote a letter to Chairman SPRATT requesting that he keep in mind the plight of the millions of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons when preparing the budget priorities for this year. I am happy that he was able to include language in the Committee Report accompanying the budget document recognizing this humanitarian crisis.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to say that not only have we received the last budget proposal from this Administration, but it is also the last budget of empty promises. I look forward to passing the Democratic budget resolution proving Congress's commitment to our American families. More importantly, I look forward to working next year with my colleagues and the next Administration to develop a fiscally responsible budget that will finally put the needs of our country first.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JUANITA
SERRANO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Juanita Serrano, who dedicated her life to serving as a community organizer on behalf of Women's Rights and social justice.

Juanita Serrano was born in Cayey, Puerto Rico in 1930 and moved to Cleveland in the 1960's. A single mother of seven sons, she dedicated her life to advocating on behalf of women and the poor. Her commitment to the welfare of others manifested itself in various ways. She participated in many marches and demonstrations in Washington, D.C. and served as the President of the Cleveland chapter of the National Welfare Rights Organization. Juanita was also one of the founding Board members of the May Dugan Multi-Service Center and served on the steering committee which helped create the Thomas F. McCafferty Health Center in Cleveland.

A tireless advocate for women and the poor, Juanita also dedicated her time to improving the life of Cleveland's Spanish speaking community. She served as a board member of the Spanish American Committee and was instrumental in the founding of Cleveland's first Hispanic Catholic Church, San Juan Bautista. Recognized for her life of serving the community, she was the recipient of Cleveland State University's Cervantes Award and was honored as the Grand Marshall of Puerto Rican Friendly Day Parade in 1993. For years Juanita volunteered as a Eucharistic Minister for terminally ill patients at MetroHealth and in 1995, was awarded Volunteer of the Year by the Cleveland Mediation Center.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Juanita Serrano, who committed her life to serving her church, her community and her family.

WOMEN IN THE TEXAS PETRO-
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: KATH-
LEEN JACKSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to pay tribute to Kathleen Jackson, Public Affairs Manager of ExxonMobil Corporation, who is in the elite club of women in the male dominated petrochemical industry.

A graduate of North Carolina State University, Ms. Jackson holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering and Pulp and Paper Science & Technology. She attended college on a Pulp and Paper Foundation scholarship, and became their first woman graduate in 1975. She was a North Carolina Leadership Institute Fellow and recipient of the W.E. Caldwell Fellowship for Chemical Engineering studies.

For more than 30 years, Ms. Jackson has held various positions at the ExxonMobil Beaumont, Texas Refinery in engineering, operations, and environmental departments—including Operations Supervisor of the refinery's natural gas liquids processing facility.

Kathleen has been responsible for the refinery's Capital Budget Planning Program, Environmental Audit Program, and Water Quality issues. She is currently responsible for managing Public Affairs and Community Relations for Exxon Mobil Corporation's Refining & Supply, Chemical, and Lubricants & Petroleum Specialties business in Beaumont, Texas. She is a Texas Registered Professional Engineer and past Chairman of the Southeast Texas Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Kathleen serves on the Lower Neches Basin Water Quality Assessment Program; the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce's Education Committee; the Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board; and is the past Chairwoman of the Southeast Texas Industry Public Relations Association, chartered by the Southeast Texas Plant Managers Forum.

In 1994, Ms. Jackson received Mobil Oil Corporation's prestigious Chairman's Award and Team Venture Award. She is also a recipient of ExxonMobil Chemical's Responsible Care Award, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineer's Outstanding Presentation Award. Kathleen is active in numerous community activities including Lamar Institute of Technology's Foundation Board of Directors; Beaumont Independent School District's Educational Improvement Committee; Young Audiences of Southeast Texas Board of Directors; Junior League of Beaumont; Rotary Club of Beaumont; JASON Alliance of Southeast Texas' Board of Directors; and is past President of the American Cancer Society.

Kathleen was appointed to the Governor's Focus on Reading Task Force by former Texas Governor George W. Bush in 1997. She currently serves as an appointee of Texas Governor Rick Perry as President of the Board of Directors for the Lower Neches Valley Authority.

Madam Speaker, Kathleen Jackson is a pioneer in the male dominated petrochemical industry, and I am proud to celebrate her accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO POCA VALLEY BANK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Poca Valley Bank as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Poca Valley Bank's first branch opened in 1908 in Walton, West Virginia, situated along the Pocatalico River in Roane County. Since then, it has expanded its banking services to Clendenin, Elkview, and Sissonville in Kanawha County and Winfield and Poca in Putnam County and opened its latest branch location in Spencer located in Roane County in 2005.

Poca Valley Bank gets its namesake from the Pocatalico River that originates in Roane County. Many of the branch locations are located along the Pocatalico River that flows through Kanawha and Putnam Counties.

The bank has found its success in catering to West Virginia's rural communities with a strong foundation built upon personal attention and customer service. With its modest roots in serving small towns and its rural outlying communities, Poca Valley Bank has grown into one of West Virginia's larger banking institutions.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Poca Valley Bank, a financial institution that represents the best of America's small town banks. I wish congratulations to Poca Valley Bank as it celebrates one century of banking in the Mountain State.

CONGRATULATING GARY K. SUNG
AS THE 2008 YOUNG ENTRE-
PRENEUR CHAMPION OF THE
YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gary K. Sung on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Young Entrepreneur Champion of the Year for Guam.

Gary Sung is the sole proprietor of Ideal Advertising. With his knowledge of technology and web development, combined with his determination and business sense, Gary transformed Ideal Advertising from a home-based business to a successful advertising agency with nine full-time employees.

Gary was also named Regional Young Entrepreneur Champion of the Year in 2007 from a pool of young business owners from California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii.

I congratulate Gary K. Sung on his business success, and I join our island in celebrating his regional and national recognition as the U.S. Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Young Entrepreneur Champion of the Year for Guam.

ESTABLISHING THE HOME OWNERS LOAN CORPORATION TO KEEP MILLIONS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, just this morning, The New York Times posted this headline: "JPMorgan and Fed Bail Out Bear Stearns." The "subprime loan problem" is mushrooming. Unless we take action with temporary relief targeted to keep families in their homes, we risk creating a patchwork "bailout plan" that will grow beyond our ability to monitor and will be impossible to dismantle.

Despite today's headlines, the American residential mortgage market remains healthy overall. Homes worth \$20 trillion secure just over \$10 trillion in mortgages, and over 90 percent of mortgage loans payments are not in default or foreclosure. However, one sector, subprime loans, is in distress. Over 7 million homeowners closed subprime loans between 2003 and 2007. An estimated \$1.3 trillion in subprime loans are outstanding, and half of these have adjustable rates. More than 20 percent have fallen past due. Over half of pending foreclosures are the result of failed subprime loans. The worst is not over. During 2008, the interest rates paid by 1.8 million subprime borrowers with \$362 billion of adjustable rate mortgages will reset upward, sharply, and continue to rise every 6 months. Lenders have mortgage assets on their balance sheets they cannot sell at a fair price, and borrowers are wincing at the sharply higher reset interest rates they must face later this year.

In today's Washington Post, Alex Pollack, former president of the Chicago Federal Home Loan Banks and now a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, reminds us of "A 1930's Rescue Lesson"—the Home Owners Loan Corporation, better known as "HOLC". This Government corporation was given the authority to purchase troubled home loans from lenders at a discount for 3 years, then liquidate when its "workout" mission was complete. HOLC's participation in the troubled 1934 mortgage market assured liquidity, restored confidence, and rescued 800,000 families from the threat of foreclosure. In 1951, HOLC completed its task, returning its initial capital contribution to the Treasury, with a profit.

I am introducing legislation to re-establish the Home Owners Loan Corporation, capitalizing it with \$25 billion that can be deployed immediately to purchase up to \$300 billion in troubled home loans. The new corporation will have the mission of fulfilling HOLC goals established in 1933, in a way that: keeps borrowers in their homes, and foreclosures to a minimum; does not bail out careless lenders or speculative investors; limits the cost to taxpayers; is temporary.

Its board of directors would include representatives from the Treasury, the Government Accountability Office, the FDIC, HUD, and the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

HOLC21, like its predecessor, will limit its purchases to mortgages secured by primary residences. And, like its predecessor, it will liquidate when its job is complete. This tem-

porary emergency program is meant to be a lifeline to subprime borrowers, preventing a downward spiral into recession. Its doors will not be opened to allow lenders to dump their assets on the Government without recognizing the cost of imprudent credit decisions. HOLC21 would purchase or guarantee mortgages on primary residences that are past due or in default, adjusted to a balance equal to 90 percent of a fair valuation of the collateral property as set by HOLC21. In markets that have seen property values drop, lenders will have the choice of recognizing their loss and selling a mortgage to HOLC21, or holding the loan and waiting for housing values to improve.

Alex Pollack describes HOLC as "sensible temporary actions" designed to "bridge the bust" and "be withdrawn as private market functioning returns." The private market needs temporary Federal support. Let's make sure it is temporary, efficient, and targeted to homeowners.

HONORING SARAH SPORTSMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sarah Sportsman of Kansas City, Missouri. Sarah is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Sarah has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Sarah has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sarah Sportsman her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT EDINGTON FOR BEING NAMED MOBILIAN OF YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Edington on the occasion of his being named Mobilian of the Year for 2007 by the Mobile Civitan Club. The Mobilian of the Year is the city's most prestigious civic honor, and Robert is most deserving of this award in recognition of over 50 years of dedicated service to the city of Mobile.

A native of Mobile, Robert Edington started his career in the Naval Reserves. He served as an Air Intelligence Officer for a Navy fighter squadron in the Korean War before retiring with the rank of commander.

Robert is an attorney and has served as a legal counselor in the Mobile area for more

than half a century. He currently serves as the director of the Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program, a program that provides legal services to the underprivileged.

Robert served for 8 years in the Alabama House of Representatives and 4 years as a State senator representing Mobile County. During his service in the Alabama Legislature, he played a lead role in establishing the Alabama Historical Commission as well as other historic districts in the city of Mobile. One of his greatest contributions to the city of Mobile was his leadership in the creation of the USS Alabama Battleship Commission, which brought the World War II battleship to Mobile in the 1960s. In recognition of his legislative efforts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. presented Robert their national award.

During his tenure in the Alabama Legislature, Robert was also instrumental in the creation of the University of South Alabama, the University of South Alabama College of Medicine as well as the development of Bishop State Community College in Mobile.

Robert served two terms as chair of the USS Alabama Battleship Commission, during which time he oversaw the \$7 million restoration project following Hurricane Katrina. He served as former chair of CSS Alabama Association, an organization responsible for underwater archeological expeditions at the wreck site of the CSS Alabama off the coast of France. The artifacts recovered by these missions are now on display at the Mobile Museum of History. Robert also loaned his voice to a History Channel documentary, "Raise the Alabama."

Robert was the Consul of Guatemala at Mobile for 20 years, and in this capacity, he organized the first local trade mission to Central America. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce Achievement Award. He also served on the National Advisory Board for the U.S. Small Business Administration for four years.

For 40 years, Robert has coordinated the U.S. Navy ships for Mobile's Mardi Gras festivities. He is an ardent supporter of Penelope House, a place of refuge for victims of domestic violence. Robert is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mobile Council of the Navy League, the Kiwanis Club of Mobile, and an active member of the National Democratic Party. He is an elder at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church and a charter member of Mobile United.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mr. Robert Edington for being named the Mobilian of the Year for 2007 and in so doing, recognize him for his many outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated professional and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Robert's family; his wife, Pat; his son, Sherard; his daughter, Virginia; and his many friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of southwest Alabama and the entire State.

HONORING SERENA LAINE-
LOBSINGER, SPELLING BEE
CHAMPION IN FLORIDA

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Serena Laine-Lobsinger, an accomplished 7th grader from my congressional district, who recently won the regional finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Florida. Serena competed against 8 opponents for 36 rounds of tense competition, to win as the area's top speller. She will now travel to Washington, DC, to represent Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee counties at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the largest and longest standing spelling bee in our country.

Serena is a bright and talented young woman and her hard work and dedication to her studies will surely help her succeed in any endeavor she pursues. I wish Serena the best of luck in the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, and continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARLENE LEE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a grateful heart to pay tribute to a selfless American, Marlene Lee of Boyds, Maryland.

In 2003, Marlene developed "Operation Atlas", a community outreach program for injured soldiers and their visiting families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. It is through this program that I have been able to work with Marlene on a nearly monthly basis as she escorts soldiers and their families on tours of the Capitol.

Marlene is an incredibly giving person, both of her time and talents. Her son, Greg, has served two tours in Iraq, so she knows intimately the pains military families go through. Yet, she is always ready with a willing hand, a kind heart, and a new way to serve others. Named as one of the American Red Cross Volunteers of the Year in 2003, Marlene was recognized again in 2004 by the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She is also on the board of directors of "Operation Support Our Troops" and the committee for Wheels for Warriors.

Through her time spent with wounded and recovering soldiers, Marlene recognized the need to reach out to children "who know of, care about, or just plain love a wounded warrior." She went back to school, earning a master's of arts in thanatology, the study of death, dying, and bereavement, from Hood College.

With the motto of "Children 'serve' and sacrifice, too", Marlene has written two books for children on dealing with the loss of a loved one in the Armed Services: *The Hero In My Pocket* and *That's My Hope*. She donates a portion of the proceeds from book sales to selected organizations that assist military families.

I am honored by the time that I have been able to share in service with Marlene. She is

a dedicated and humble person who goes out of her way to bless the lives of the men, women and the children in our military families and communities. May God continue to bless her and America.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY

HON. BOB GOODLATE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GOODLATE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Madison University on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

James Madison University, surrounded by the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, has proved to be a catalyst for growth in western Virginia, building on the agricultural base of the region to create a center for higher education.

It has been a true pleasure to work with former president Dr. Ron Carrier and current president Dr. Linwood Rose as they have skillfully guided James Madison University into the twenty-first century.

From its inception, James Madison University has been at the forefront of education. Originally a teachers college, today James Madison provides ground-breaking research in information technology, security and alternative fuel sources, and offers more than 100 degree programs for its more than 17,000 students.

Madam Speaker, James Madison University's alumni have impacted the Commonwealth of Virginia, the United States and the world. Madison graduates travel to the farthest corners of the earth to perform research and provide leadership in corporate boardrooms, State legislatures and even here on Capitol Hill.

I am pleased to introduce today, along with the entire Virginia delegation, a resolution recognizing the rich history and accomplishments of this remarkable institution on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. I urge all the Members of this body to join us in congratulating James Madison University on its 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO TOM AND CHRISTINE
BUTLER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Tom and Christie Butler of Lexington, Missouri. Together, the Butlers have contributed over 100 years of outstanding service to the Boy Scouts of America. Their contributions to the young people of Missouri have helped them learn leadership skills and self-confidence that will last a lifetime.

Tom has been involved with the Boy Scouts for the past 56 years and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1961. Christie earned the Gold Bar Award from the Girl Scouts of America and became the first female to serve as scout-

master in the Big Muddy District of the Heart of America Boy Scout Council. Both serve their district by serving as a resource for Scoutmasters, providing training to fellow adult leaders, and attending meetings of different area troops.

The Butlers believe strongly in the values and lessons learned from scouting. Throughout the years, the Boy Scouts have remained one of America's finest organizations in helping young people learn both practical skills and life lessons. Thanks to the work and dedication of people like Tom and Christie Butler, many more young people will have the opportunity to be involved in Scouting.

As an Eagle Scout myself, I understand the impact leaders such as the Butlers have in guiding America's youth. I hope Members of the House will join me in honoring and thanking the Butlers for their work with the Boy Scouts.

CONGRATULATING BILL BOSS ON
RECEIVING THE TENNESSEE TI-
TANS 2007 COMMUNITY QUARTER-
BACK AWARD

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this January, Bill Boss of Tullahoma, Tennessee, received the Tennessee Titans 2007 Community Quarterback Award, and I rise today to congratulate his service to our community, our state, and our country.

Nearly thirty years ago, Bill completed his service to our armed forces and retired as an officer of the United States Air Force. For Bill, his time as one of America's finest was only the beginning of a life dedicated to his community and the betterment of those around him.

After retiring from the Air Force, Bill began a career as a research engineer for the University of Tennessee Space Institute. It was there that Bill met with friends and colleagues to discuss how they could use their scientific expertise to give young students in Coffee County, Tennessee, and across the state an opportunity to discover the sciences for themselves. Only seven years later, Boss's diligence proved successful and helped open the Tullahoma Hands-On Science Center.

Today, 10,000 eager young learners visit the Hands-On Science Center every year as it continues to provide a forum that engages and enthalls the scientists of tomorrow. I commend Bill for his efforts, and proudly stand to congratulate him today for an award well earned in service to Coffee County students and all those aspiring scholars across the State of Tennessee.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA
WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONS
AT MISHAWAKA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victory of the Mishawaka

Cavemen in the Indiana High School Athletic Association state wrestling championship. The championship was a repeat challenge between two-time defending state champions Mater Dei and the Cavemen, who had suffered defeat the year before. It took all their strength and motivation to turn the tables, but at the end of this year's tournament it was the Cavemen who were celebrating victory.

It was the perfect finish to a season full of intense physical training and exhausting practices. On its way to the state title, Mishawaka—ranked third overall—completed their season with a record of 31–1 and knocked off both the first and second-ranked teams. While they have appeared in the state finals for nine consecutive seasons, this is the first championship for Mishawaka since 1991.

Mater Dei had an early lead in the contest, but junior Tim Forte rallied to win his match 1–0. This gave the Cavemen a score of 9–7—a lead which they were able to maintain throughout the rest of the competition. Seniors Dave Balentine and Randy Morin and sophomore Paul Beck were all victorious in their matches, bringing the score to 22–10. But it was a win by junior and three-time individual state champion Josh Harper that finalized Mishawaka's victory.

These exceptional members of the Mishawaka team were joined by Danny Abu-Shehab, DJ Ballenger, Brandon Barcus, Jon Bennett, Christian Bergin, Dustin Boyd, Andrew Brogdon, Gary Brooks, Andrew Childress, Darius Cooley, David Delarosa, Anthony Eddy, Marty Friedman, Adam Guerra, Matt Guerra, Neal Kostry, Christian Lentz, Anthony Lewis, Darius Marshall, Hunter Marvin, Brandon Merisch, Aaron Merisch, Richard Morin, Tyler Nally, Robert Norris, Caleb Norville, Trenton Reinoehl, Tyler Reinoehl, Steven Sandefer, Nick Schrader, Joey Smith, Tylor Smith, Brandon Straub, Quinci Sullivan, Mitch Sutherland, Travis Thomas, Justin Traver, Eric Uitdenhowen, Austin Vegh, Alex White and Taylor Wisler. These dedicated young men should be commended for their accomplishments.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the support of Mishawaka High School's administration and staff. Special recognition should be given to head coach Darrick Snyder, assistant coaches Fabian Chavez and Mike Lehman and Athletic Director Robert Shriner for the continued support and guidance they give to the team. Volunteers Brad Addison, Pat Day, Mike Faulkner, Scott Gann, Nick Nicodemus, Mike Strycker, Brandon Trtan, and Junior Varsity Coach Brian Woodworth gave freely of their time and energy to make this championship possible. The team was not alone in this accomplishment, as family, friends, fans, members of the Mishawaka community and Mishawaka High School principal Dr. George Marzotto have all tirelessly cheered the team on to victory throughout the season.

The Mishawaka Cavemen wrestling team has achieved a memorable ending to an extraordinary season. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, Mishawaka High School and the greater Mishawaka community on this season's accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND
FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board, and all federal employees of our community for their individual and collective dedication as public servants, focused on the public good.

The community of federal employees in Cleveland, Ohio, is comprised of more than 25,000 individuals who contribute their talent, trade and expertise daily within an array of roles, including park rangers, administrators, accountants, clerical employees, attorneys, engineers, military personnel, mail carriers, scientists, nurses and physicians.

The professional contributions extended daily by federal employees serve as a foundation of support, safety and security throughout our community. Every day, the environment is monitored; the mail is delivered; veterans receive medical care; our national park is preserved; immigrants are guided to citizenship; citizens are provided with benefits and programs; and the universe is studied and explored by the astronomers.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the members of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board and the thousands of federal employees who live and work within our Cleveland community. Their dedication to their work continues to preserve, protect and strengthen our entire community.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Progressive Caucus Budget Substitute.

This week, many of my constituents are visiting Washington, DC. They are here asking for more funding for important Federal programs.

I keep explaining to them, that I will do my best; we all will do our best. We will fight for them; we will fight with them.

But the problem is the war in Iraq. Every penny we spend on this war is another penny that will cost our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren. Every cent we spend on this war in an emergency supplemental is off-budget. But every dollar we invest in health care, unemployment insurance, housing, in child welfare is subject to devastating cuts.

This administration believes that we have an endless pot of money for war, but no money for hard-working Americans.

Across the country people are struggling. They are struggling to keep up with their bills. Struggling to pay their mortgages, pay for college, pay for food, pay for gas. They come here and ask us to invest in their needs. They ask us to provide funding not for the war but for their communities.

Mr. Chairman, this budget amendment does just that. We provide nearly \$132 billion more than the President to assist struggling Americans. This proposal responds to our constituents. It says we found a way to fund what is important to you.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GAS ATTACK OF THE KURDS OF
HALABJA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember the 20th anniversary of a terrible crime committed against the Kurdish people, the gassing of the inhabitants of the city of Halabja on March 16, 1988. This attack on men, women, and children was a crime against humanity. On that day, Iraqi planes dropped chemical munitions, including mustard gas and nerve gas; the planes concentrated their attack on the city as well as the roads leading out of the town. More than 5,000 people were killed and another 10,000 were injured. Twenty years later, the survivors of this attack are still suffering from the effects of that horrendous onslaught.

As a staffer with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the time, I had the opportunity to travel to the region after this attack, in September 1988, and observed first hand the effects of that terrible campaign against the Kurds. With my colleague, Peter Galbraith, I interviewed Kurdish survivors of other chemical attacks that followed. We had the sad but important task of documenting chemical attacks on 49 Kurdish villages. These attacks were part of a year-long brutal campaign that resulted in the deaths and disappearances of approximately 180,000 Iraqi Kurds.

Because of these brutal attacks against the Kurds, the Senate passed stiff economic sanctions against the Saddam Hussein regime at the time, but the Reagan Administration defeated this effort and failed to penalize this regime with any meaningful measures. That failure sent a terrible signal to Saddam Hussein, and he may have concluded that he could subsequently attack Kuwait with impunity. After the Persian Gulf war of 1991, the United States imposed a no-fly zone over the Kurdish region of Iraq, which helped the inhabitants of that area to begin to restore their shattered lives.

Today, the Iraqi Kurdistan region is one of the most stable and peaceful regions of Iraq, and its brave people are trying to concentrate on political and economic development. As we try to assist these people we should also be mindful of what they have lived through and the loved ones they have lost. We must never

forget the crime against the inhabitants of Halabja and other Kurdish towns and villages.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL F. GILL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside 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. Paul Gill is one of these individuals. On March 26, 2008, a celebration will be held in honor of Paul Gill's retirement—and of the next chapter in his life of public service as the Chief Operations Officer of Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Paul Gill is the Senior Vice President, Regional Operations, for American Dental Partners, a leading dental practice management services organization. He is responsible for supervising California operations, and building a strong dental network for the West Coast. Since 1993, Paul served as the Administrator for Riverside Dental Group.

Prior to coming to Riverside Dental Group, Paul served as Community Development Director for the City of Moreno Valley. In that capacity, he managed the city activities of Planning, Building, and Code Compliance.

Before his position with the City, Paul served more than 23 years in the United States Air Force, last serving as the Wing Commander at March Air Force Base, California. In the Air Force, Paul served in various commands throughout the country and overseas as a pilot, instructor pilot, evaluator pilot and at various levels of operational staff and command. He has flown approximately 4,000 hours, of which more than 800 were in combat.

Paul has a B.S. degree from Duquesne University, an M.S. from Syracuse University, as well as an M.A. from Creighton University. Among his community activities, he served as Chairman, March Joint Powers Authority Technical Advisory Committee, Director of the Silver Eagles, and the LeMay Foundation. Paul has also served as Chairman of Riverside County's Airport Land Use Commission, Chairman of the Silver Eagles, Director of Riverside County's Regional Hospital Foundation, the Monday Morning Group, and the Moreno Valley Action Committee. He and his wife Mary Anne have four grown children.

Paul's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Paul a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires from the Riverside Dental Group. I wish Paul and his wife all the best as they embark on a new adventure in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENSON AU-YEUNG AS THE 2008 MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Benson Au-Yeung on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

Benson grew up on Guam and has contributed to our community throughout his life. He was born in Kowloon, Hong Kong where he studied the English language for 13 years. In 1976, his family relocated to Guam. He attended Cathedral Grade School, Bishop Baumgartner Junior High School, and graduated with honors from Father Duenas Memorial School. He then left for a short period to obtain a bachelor of science degree in computer science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Benson returned to Guam in 1986 to devote his time to the family business, a successful local company geared toward the visitor industry. He combined their services with his experience in computer programming and started Soft Pacific, Inc which equips Guam and Saipan businesses with Japanese language computers.

In 1998, Benson expanded Soft Pacific, Inc. and acquired the 3M Graphics Division on Guam. Eventually this acquisition resulted in the development of Benz Sign Supplies, a successful sign supply company on Guam. Benz Sign Supplies provides a variety of signage products to the local market and has widened its clientele to include the overseas market, including the U.S. mainland and Canada.

After 10 years, Benson's small business continues to provide important products and services to our community. He is an active member of the Guam Contractors Association, Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association, Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, and the Guam Chinese Tennis Club. I congratulate him for his achievement as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

IN HONOR OF DR. LAWRENCE S. SYKOFF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff's lasting contributions and dedication to education. After 15 years as Head of Ranney School, Dr. Sykoff has transformed Ranney into one of the premier independent schools in New Jersey.

Dr. Sykoff has been committed to the field of education for 35 years. Before accepting his position at Ranney, Dr. Sykoff served as Head of the Birch Wathen Lenox School in New York, and as a math teacher at the La Jolla Country Day School. He is nationally acclaimed for his studies in Middle School education and curriculum development, and his

work on the education of pre- and early adolescent children has been used as a model in schools across the country.

At Ranney, Dr. Sykoff has successfully launched an impressive campaign to expand the school and enhance the education of its students by increasing enrollment, building new facilities, and broadening the scope of Ranney's technological capabilities. Under Dr. Sykoff's leadership, Ranney continues to maintain a strong relationship with its neighborhood and Monmouth County by supporting the Tinton Falls Police Youth Academy and the Tinton Falls City Council.

Currently Dr. Sykoff is very active in the community. He sits on the Board of Trustees of the American Cancer Society and the historic Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, NJ. He is also a past member of the Board of the Monmouth County Family and Children's Service.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Lawrence Sykoff. His efforts in advancing the quality of education and his commitment to excellence will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents and all NJ residents.

DESIGNATING APRIL 2008 AS 'NATIONAL FACIAL PROTECTION MONTH'

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker,

Whereas 5 million teeth are knocked out each year during sports activities;

Whereas an athlete participating in contact sports has a 10% chance of sustaining a significant oral-facial injury each season;

Whereas studies indicate that approximately one third of all dental injuries and approximately 19% of head and face injuries are sports-related;

Whereas an athlete is 60 times more likely to sustain damage to the teeth when not wearing a protective mouth guard;

Whereas emerging evidence supports that youth athletes wearing full facial protection during baseball, softball, hockey, and lacrosse can significantly reduce their risk of oral-facial trauma;

Whereas the Task Force on Community Preventive Services found that there is insufficient evidence—due to a lack of available research data—to support intervention programs to encourage the use of helmets, facemasks, and mouth guards to reduce oral-facial trauma in contact sports;

Whereas the Task Force on Community Preventive Services has recommended additional research on the effectiveness of intervention programs to encourage the use of helmets, facemasks, and mouth guards;

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) designates April 2008 as 'National Facial Protection Month';

(2) declares it is critical—

(a) to raise awareness about the importance of using proper dental and facial protection during sporting activities;

(b) to conduct additional research to study the effectiveness of intervention programs to encourage use of helmets, facemasks, and mouth guards;

(3) calls on sports health care professionals, parents, and coaches—

(a) to educate athletes about the importance of protective equipment and encourage the use of all protective devices to ensure the athlete's safety;

(b) to recommend using protective equipment that meets the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) and that the equipment is clearly identified as being in compliance;

(c) to observe National Facial Protection Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C. LANHAM

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career and accomplishments of Charles C. Lanham of Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

For the past 50 years, he has been a leader of various civic and professional organizations addressing the needs of his community and small town banks. A graduate of Marshall University and former member of the Army National Guard, Charles began his banking career in Ripley, WV and later took a job as Vice President of Citizens National Bank in nearby Point Pleasant in 1963. He spent the next 40 years as a leader in local community banks and recently retired from his current post as Director Emeritus of the Ohio Valley Banc Corps.

Despite his prominent banking career, he is revered most for his public service. He has successfully brought results through his leadership and involvement with countless community organizations that address the needs of Mason County. His greatest contribution; however, is his work to bring attention to improving Route 35.

Charles and two of his colleagues, David Hofsetter and Jack Fruth formed the Route 35 Committee to address the dangerous stretch of highway in Mason and Putnam Counties in 1996. For the next ten years, Charles spent countless hours traveling from his home in Point Pleasant to our state capitol and the halls of Congress to advocate funding for this project.

His hard work finally paid off in 2003 when funding was first appropriated to begin the upgrade. The link of highway he so tirelessly worked to improve was named in his honor as the Fruth-Lanham Highway. In 2005, Charles answered another call to public service when he was named Senator of 4th Senatorial District where he could work to further his mission for Route 35.

Charles represents the true calling of public service. It is an honor to work with such a distinguished citizen who has contributed so much to our great state. I'm proud to call Charles Lanham a friend and a fellow West Virginian. I wish him all best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING STAN McNABB
OF TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this year, 25,000 individuals from the

automobile industry converged to honor the nominees for Time Magazine's "Dealer of the Year" Award. Today, I'm proud to congratulate Stan McNabb of Tullahoma, Tennessee, on his nomination for the 2008 Time Magazine Dealer of the Year. This prestigious honor is a tribute to his exceptional performance as an auto dealer and his steadfast commitment to community service, and I rise today to recognize Stan's dedication to his trade and to the people of Coffee County.

Robert Weaver, President of the Tennessee Automotive Association, nominated Stan to represent Tennessee as one of the 51 dealers who will compete as finalists for "Dealer of the Year," an award that required a demonstration of successful auto-dealing as well as an ongoing dedication to community service.

Stan, who earned his degree from Middle Tennessee State University, sold cars as a young man at a Chevrolet dealership and quickly discovered that his passion for automobiles could develop into a career. Stan bought his first dealership in 1980, and now owns three businesses in middle Tennessee. In addition, Stan has used his success in business to contribute to the State. As a board member of "Partners for Healing," an organization meant to provide help and support to the working uninsured in Coffee County, Tennessee, Stan exemplifies a charitable spirit that is a model for business owners across the State.

It is a privilege to congratulate Stan McNabb on his nomination for this award, and to recognize him for his success and service.

CONGRATULATING MR. RONNIE
POIROUX ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Ronnie Poiroux on the occasion of his retirement after a 37-year public service career with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT).

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of South Alabama, Ronnie joined ALDOT in 1971 as an engineering assistant. Six years later, he was named assistant division maintenance engineer, a position in which he supervised 32 employees. In this capacity, Ronnie was charged with bridge inspection and repair, resurfacing, paint striping, traffic signals, and truck weighing. Just months after this promotion, Ronnie was given the additional responsibilities of overseeing tunnels and lift span bridges, including the supervision of an additional 45 employees.

In 1982, Ronnie was promoted to maintenance engineer for the Ninth Division. ALDOT's Ninth Division encompasses a large portion of the First Congressional District, including Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Conecuh counties. As maintenance engineer for the Ninth Division, Ronnie supervised and administered the railroad safety projects, division resurfacing projects and paved shoulder projects in southwest Alabama. Ronnie managed bridge inspections and helped establish

priorities for bridge replacement projects. He also administered outdoor advertising as well as the interstate logo program.

Ronnie was promoted to division engineer for the Ninth Division in 1994, a position he held until his retirement 14 years later. As division engineer, Ronnie supervised numerous projects in southwest Alabama, including: \$900 million in construction and maintenance projects; \$200 million in preliminary engineering, right of way acquisition and utility relocations; the opening of I-165; completion of the I-165 connector and Bay Bridge relocation to Cochrane Africatown Bridge; completion of replacement bridges over Fish River and Dog River; hurricane evacuation routes and emergency evacuations of south Alabama; preliminary design and planning of proposed Mobile Bay bridge; redesign and construction of the new I-10 interchange in Irvington as well as the connector to Bayou La Batre; the widening of Highway 98; design and construction of Alabama 113 from I-65 to Flomaton; completion of additional lanes and widening projects including Alabama 287 and Alabama 59 in Baldwin County, U.S. 31 in Escambia County and Schillinger Road/Alabama 158 in Mobile County; creation of the award winning Gopher Tortoise Preserve in Mobile County; the installation of osprey nesting platforms in Mobile and Baldwin counties; and construction of Mobile's Traffic Management Center and installation of a fog detection system for the I-10 Bayway Bridge.

Madam Speaker, it is clear Ronnie Poiroux has left an indelible mark on southwest Alabama, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated professional and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know Ronnie's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of southwest Alabama and the entire state.

HONORING AMY ZIEBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Amy Zieber of Cameron, Missouri. Amy is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Amy has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Amy has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Amy Zieber her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO MARGO WELS JESKE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Margo Wels Jeske, a great American who exemplifies all that is special about our Nation of hard-working, visionary business leaders. Margo has followed a path that all of us in this chamber should strive to emulate—she cares about people first.

Well before the age of computers, in 1966, when jet travel was still rare and gas was 35 cents per gallon, a young woman named Margo Wels from Nicollet, Minnesota, joined the North American Life and Casualty Company as a cashier in its New Ulm office.

Margo served North American Life and Casualty and its successor company, Allianz Life, for 42 outstanding years. She held a series of important positions, including Executive Assistant to the President and other key company officials. Margo retired in early February.

Today, we salute Margo Wels Jeske for her leadership and hard work in protecting people and families and helping our area keep and develop good jobs.

Madam Speaker, we all know from our experience in Congress the importance of people like Margo. They have tremendous institutional knowledge, mentor younger workers and help bring order to the lives of the people with whom they work.

Throughout her entire career at Allianz Life, Margo earned the deepest respect and affection of the thousands of people with whom she came in contact. Her humor, personal kindness and professionalism made her a crucial part of the company.

We live in a time when connections between people are not as strong as they were in the past. But when we examine the life of Margo, we recognize the real importance of those connections. We are worse off for the lack of the personal touch. To thrive, all institutions need committed people, and no one exemplifies this better than Margo Jeske.

Every season of life has its own unique pleasures and Margo has decided it is time to retire, travel and do other things that she enjoys.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend Margo for her successful career and extend my best wishes to her and Wayne and their son, Eric, for health and happiness in the years ahead. America salutes Margo and all our citizens like her who bring a caring and committed attitude to the job each and every day.

I hope that each of us in the U.S. Congress seek to serve our constituents with the same dedication shown by Margo Wels Jeske each and every day.

CONGRATULATING THIRD DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL PATRIOTIC ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, this year marked the first-ever Third

District Middle School Patriotic Essay Contest. Students living in the Congressional "District wrote a patriotic essay on a topic of their choice. Over 275 students submitted essays for this first time endeavor. I must give special credit to Murphy Middle School's award-winning teacher Donna Jenkins. Her students authored the most essays and contributed greatly to this inaugural contest.

Today I'm proud to share the essays from the three winners. From here on out they'll be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Someday, each winner will be able to share with children and grandchildren—"In middle school I wrote a patriotic essay and my work will always be recognized in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD."

1st Place: Kayla Hudgins, 8th Grade—Age 13, Murphy Middle School, Teacher: Donna Jenkins, Lives in Wylie.

2nd Place: Sai Pranathi Baddipudi, 8th Grade—Age 13, Staley Middle School, Teacher: Tammy Brightwell, Lives in Frisco.

3rd Place: Rebecca Beverly Kow, 6th Grade—Age 12, Faubion Middle School, Teacher: Debbie Bennett, Lives in McKinney.

I want to thank the 275+ students who participated in the contest. The outstanding level of participation shows great promise for the future. To the winners, you're the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

1ST PLACE WINNER

(By Kayla Hudgins, Grade 8, Murphy Middle School)

Veterans mean the courage to believe in something bigger than your own prosperity and to risk the ultimate sacrifice of your life. These brave soldiers fought for something that deserves our complete gratitude: our freedom. Veterans have a powerful love for their countrymen. But still, we do not seem to fully grasp the importance of their mission.

When the veterans left to war, they never knew if they were coming back alive or not. And still they went, for they believed in the freedoms that the founders of this country did. They went so that their families and friends could remain Americans. Veterans fought, not only for their freedom, but for others' freedom as well. They fought for future generations and the present generation. They suppressed their fears to bring peace to all of mankind.

This love, for country and fellow citizens, is the epitome of selflessness. Veterans are role models of self-sacrifice and brotherly love. Their love for our country and its beliefs lead some of them to give their lives for the sake of others. The veterans do not know if their efforts to bring peace will be in vain. They do not expect thanks for their sacrifices, and that makes them all the more heroes in my eyes.

And though these brave soldiers risk everything, I am not sure people fully grasp the importance of the existence of veterans. The rights and freedoms these women and men fight for are abused and taken for granted. We seem to forget that, if not for them, our lives would most likely be run by a corrupt communist government. But people continue to march off to war, to protect a nation that may very well never even know they were here, to keep us from invading evils.

Veterans, to me, are the last remaining people who truly understand what it means to be an American. They are the remnant souls of the soldiers of the Revolution. They are everything America was built upon, and they fight to keep it alive. Veterans stand

for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They do not exist to go to war but to protect thousands from its consequences. The world may never know their names or stories, but they are the only thing that has kept this nation where it is. What drives them, we may never fully understand, but I am thankful for their determination and neighborly love that has no bounds. Maybe one day, the world will fully comprehend how sorrowful and devastating everything would have been without them; hopefully for now they will be satisfied by the innocent smile on their child's face when they return. Veterans are more than heroes; veterans are America.

2ND PLACE WINNER

(By Sai Pranathi Baddipudi, Grade 8, Staley Middle School)

Herbert Hoover, our 31st president, once said, "Older men declare war, but it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war." Those words ring as clearly in my head as the liberty Bell rang for this very nation many years ago. Everything I treasure: my family, my friends, my life, wouldn't be the same if it hadn't been for the veterans who jeopardized their lives in the name of autonomy.

That ultimate sacrifice made by those courageous young men and women who fought not just for the well being of the world, or our nation, but for each and every person that resides in this country, are commemorated till this very day.

Like many other people living in the U.S.A., I too took freedom for granted. But my perspective on the matter changed one Veteran's Day when my class talked about the Vietnam War, the war in Iraq, and saw pictures of the shocking conditions these soldiers had to endure. We also read letters that were written by those soldiers, talking about the adversities they were facing, and how much they missed their families, of how eager they are to see their newborn baby boy or girl. Through their words, I realized the true value of freedom and how much people in this world were willing to give up for it; I was also able to build great respect for the heroes who put their lives at stake for our liberty.

Ever since, I cherish freedom as a gift. Every day that I am presented with a decision to make, I am thankful that I possess the choice to make that decision. Some of the choices that I have made, and that I will make in the near future will alter my life tremendously. But, I am obliged that I live in a country where it is a right granted to the people to make the decisions that will shape their own lives. I am forever in debt and thankful to those who risked their lives, and to those who lost someone dear to them just so that I could make the decisions that I now make freely on a daily basis.

This nation would not be near as great as it is now if it hadn't been for those noble young men and women who risked their lives for it. So, each day that I'm alive, I prize that gift of freedom, and in remembrance of the American heroes; our veterans, I offer my thanks and gratitude.

3RD PLACE WINNER

(By Rebecca Beverly Kow, Grade 6, Faubion Middle School)

"PATRIOT"

Patriot: a word that gets jumbled in the Vocabulary Vat of our brains. Most of us don't realize that it's the blood, sweat, and tears sacrificed by the person to make our lives easy.

March 10th

Dad has a new job. I wasn't paying attention at dinner, I was busy forking my peas

around, trying to make them disappear, I finally had forced one into my mouth, when Dad made the announcement. I almost choked. He's going to join the military. He'd deployed on April 30th. He said he's wanted to do this for a long time; he's always wanted to fight for our country, but I don't want him to leave. I hope I'm not being selfish, but I just don't think I can watch my daddy leave with no guarantee he'll be back.

April 29th

Tomorrow Dad leaves. Today was family day, I didn't find it fun. We just spent the day together, fretting about everything. Now I'm trying to sleep, but when I close my eyes, I see horrible images.

April 30th

Dad's Gone. I was kind of in a daze as we drove to the airport. Before he left I gave him my necklace; it has a little angel on it. He put it on and said he won't take it off until he comes home. I'm trying to write through tears, but it's hard because my vision's blurring. I don't know why it didn't hit me until right after Dad walked away, that I might not see him again.

August 4th

HE'S!! MISSING!! We got a phone call. They said he never came back. Mom promises he's fine, I try to believe her. It's okay, I tell myself, but tears keep coming.

September 13th

My birthday. A day to never forget. I opened the mailbox praying there would be something from Dad. And . . . there kinda was. It was a teeny-tiny envelope with my name on it. It looked like it was holding something, a secret waiting to be told, so big it was about to burst at the seams. I opened it and my necklace fell out. My mind turned to mush, he said he'd wear it until he was home, but why was it mailed, what if he was home . . . just in spirit. OH NO! Thoughts swirled around in my head like a blender, and I sat down on the curb and cried. Later, there was a knock on the door, I slowly opened it. On the other side was something unbelievable; Dad. There he was standing there, home. He had a cast on his leg and bandages everywhere, but he smiled as if he'd won the lottery. That's when he became my hero.

A patriot is a person that loves and defends their country. It means so much to me, these people, risking their lives for us. These people do things that I wouldn't have the courage to do, and I would like to say something to them; thank you.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DODGERS IN LOS ANGELES

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to congratulate the Dodgers for calling the City of Los Angeles its home for the last 50 years. I'm honored to be participating in the kick off event at the Los Angeles City Hall on March 28 for what will be a year-long "Golden Anniversary" celebration.

The Los Angeles Dodgers played their first home game on April 18, 1958, defeating the San Francisco Giants 6-5 before 78,672 fans at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Since arriving in Los Angeles 50 years ago, the

Dodgers have had its share of baseball firsts, major league moments, shattered records and invaluable players—making baseball history and achieving golden moments over and over again.

The Dodgers led the geographic expansion of baseball to the west and managed to preserve the New York City cross-town rivalry by convincing the Giants to move to California as well. The historic and heated competition between the Dodgers and the Giants is more than a century old, and is the longest rivalry in baseball history. In 1959 the Dodgers, then playing their second season in Los Angeles, played the defending World Champion New York Yankees in an exhibition game in Roy Campanella's honor at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The attendance was 93,103—still the largest crowd ever to attend a Major League Baseball game. The Dodgers are set to make history again when they play the defending World Champion Boston Red Sox in an exhibition game on March 29, 2008, at the Coliseum. The game is expected to draw the largest baseball crowd since the Dodgers played that historic 1959 game at the same venue.

The Los Angeles Dodgers earned its reputation for success with five World Championships, nine National League pennants, 15 playoff appearances, eight Cy Young Award winners, four MVPs, an incredible 12 Rookie of the Year recipients (five of which were handed out in five consecutive years—an unmatched feat), and numerous other Major League Baseball honors. And in addition to these impressive records and awards are other "golden moments" that stand out in the minds of Dodgers fans.

The 1981 Opening Day starting pitcher was a 20-year-old rookie from Mexico. Fernando Valenzuela pitched a shutout that day and proceeded to win his first eight decisions with five shutouts. Later that year Fernando helped the Dodgers win its first World Series title since 1965. "Fernandomania" swept through the baseball world, a culture-crossing phenomenon that took Los Angeles and the world by storm when Valenzuela won both the National League Rookie of the Year and Cy Young awards, becoming the first player to win both in the same year.

And all true blue Dodgers fans can close their eyes and picture the footage of Kirk Gibson hobbling around the bases on both hurt legs, and pumping his fist as he rounds second base, during his pinch-hit home run in game one of the 1988 "Fall Classic." The Dodgers would go on to win a World Series upset that year, and Gibson's "golden moment," his single swing, is considered the ninth most memorable moment in Major League Baseball history.

In all likelihood only one or two fans even remember one of my personal favorite Dodgers "golden moments," and I must admit it was not the bottom of the ninth inning, with two outs, and the bases loaded. But once upon a time, a certain local congressman was invited to throw the first pitch of a ball game—and it was a perfect strike! Such are the heart pounding thrills that the Dodgers deliver time and again.

Madam Speaker, after 50 years of time honored tradition in Los Angeles, the Dodgers truly are a community institution. An institution I'm proud calls Dodger Stadium in my 31 st Congressional District of California home.

Whether you are "thinking blue," "bleeding Dodger blue" or "praying to the big Dodger in the sky," many Angelenos share an intense loyalty and kinship with their "Boys in Blue." I look forward to many more decades of the Los Angeles Dodgers' community involvement and history-making baseball accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL McDOWELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael McDowell, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Ireland, as we welcome him to Cleveland, Ohio, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2008.

For almost 30 years, Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon have organized the St. Patrick's Day Party and Parade, a festive event that brings people together in the heart of Cleveland. On this exceptional day, Cleveland's streets are a sea of green, full with the lively sounds of traditional Irish music, laughter and the spirit of all those joining together to celebrate rich Irish culture.

Born in Dublin, Ireland in May 1951, Michael McDowell followed in the footsteps of his grandfather by dedicating his life to public service and leadership. Mr. McDowell has a decorated political history as a founding member of the Progressive Democrats Political Party, in which he served as President from 2002-2006. While leading the Progressive Democrats Party, he also held the distinguished post of Tanaiste. He was one of 14 Progressive Democrat Teachta Dála's elected to Dáil Éireann in the 1987 general election, the first election after the party was founded. In this position, he represented Dublin's South East constituency from 1987-1989, 1992-1997 and 2002-2007. In 2002, he began his 5-year tenure as Ireland's Minister of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and served as Attorney General from 1999 to 2002.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of former Irish politician, Michael McDowell, for joining us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Cleveland. Please also join me in recognition of Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon for their efforts in organizing this marvelous St. Patrick's Day Party this year, as they have for almost 30-years.

HONORING CAROLINE WRIGHT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caroline Wright of Blue Springs, Missouri. Caroline is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Caroline has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award,

Caroline has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caroline Wright her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

RECOGNIZING 21 YEARS OF SERVICE BY STEVE MATHIS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in March of 2008, I rise to thank Mr. Steve Mathis for 21 years of outstanding service to the United States Government, working at the House recording studio here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native Californian, Steve graduated from San Diego State University in 1978. He then worked 5 years as a shift supervisor for KPBS-TV. Steve began his House career in the House recording studio's production department in 1980 when "live" House television coverage was only a year old. For the next 15 years, Steve was an indispensable member of the House's television floor coverage, recording studio, and radio production crew serving around the clock whenever House sessions required.

After a detour as a production operator at CNN for 6 years, Steve returned to the House in 2002, becoming a television director for both studio shows and House floor coverage. Highlights have included directing the 2008 State of the Union broadcast along with working on numerous other joint sessions with world leaders.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Mr. Mathis for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him and his wife Paula many wonderful years fulfilling his retirement dreams of visiting every Major League ballpark in the country and taking bicycle trips throughout the world.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, the Democrats proposed budget is tax and spend all over again.

Instead of preserving tax relief for Americans, the Democrat budget includes a \$683 billion tax increase. This is \$683 billion dollars the majority plans to take from everyday American, who are already feeling the pinch from rising gas prices, increasing food costs, and credit card debt. These horrendous tax increases are meant to pay for the tens of billions in wasteful, new Federal spending proposed in the Democrat budget.

And where is the entitlement reform that we so desperately need to ensure our children and grandchildren are not saddled with the price of our inaction? It is nowhere to be found in the Democrat budget.

For a majority leadership that sailed into power under the guise of change, it is terribly obvious that what this budget represents is merely more of the same—more of the same wasteful spending and tax increases to pay for it all. Washington does not have a revenue problem. It has a spending problem. The Democrat budget has got it backwards.

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

THANK YOU TO THE KANSAS COYOTES

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to share the conclusion of a dramatic story that began in the early days of World War II. This testimony underscores the heart and commitment of our Kansas Airmen. In 1944, the crew of a B-24 Liberator bomber was brought down by anti-aircraft fire in the Pacific near Palau. That crew was not found until March of this year. Sixty-four years after the crew of the U.S. Army Air Forces gave their lives for America—the Joint P-O-W/M-I-A Accounting Command recovered the men from their watery graves. Volunteer Kansas Air National Guardsmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing returned them home to the United States. The fallen men will, finally, be able to rest in peace in the soil of the country they fought to protect. I'd like to give a profound "thank you" to the Kansas Coyotes for their role in helping to provide the long overdue closure for the families of the Babes in Arms crew. I commend you for your spirit and dedication to your fellow soldier.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. LOUIS E. McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to join my friend and colleague, BRIAN BAIRD, in introducing the Political Intelligence Disclosure Act. By requiring political intelligence firms to make their activities known in the same way lobbying is reported, this bill will help to bring transparency to the growing world of political intelligence.

Political intelligence firms were first established in the 1970s and have been operating

since then without regulation. This industry focuses not on influencing Congress, but on gathering information on forthcoming legislative action in order to give their clients an advantage over other investors. This information is then used to influence decisions on stocks, securities and commodities. Currently, firms conducting political intelligence are not required to disclose their clients or earnings. But the bill we are introducing today would change that and require the same disclosure from political intelligence firms as from lobbying firms.

With leading experts noting that political intelligence businesses have quadrupled in size since 2003, these businesses are now emerging as a key factor in the lobby industry, and should be regulated accordingly. Such an important and increasingly relevant business should certainly be required to make its activities known to the public.

Additionally, there have been reports that employees of political intelligence firms have been attending meetings related to legislation, essentially posing as lobbyists. By requiring disclosure of these firms, this bill will ensure that people attending meetings where legislation is discussed make their intentions known and their goals clear.

The Political Intelligence Disclosure Act will bring necessary accountability to this growing field, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor. We must make political intelligence firms accountable and transparent. This important bill will do just that. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill today.

HONORING STEPHEN FEINSTEIN

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Stephen Feinstein, the director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and adjunct professor of history at the University of Minnesota, who died unexpectedly on March 4, 2008. He was 64.

Born in Philadelphia and educated at Villanova and New York Universities, Prof. Feinstein taught for 30 years at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls before joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota. From its founding in 1997, he built the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies into an internationally renowned educational, research, and outreach institution that was engaged with a broad range of human rights issues, including the Armenian Genocide, the treatment of Native Americans, and the humanitarian crises in East Africa. To end genocide, he once said, "we must study it and understand how it works against what we call 'civilization,'" if possible to develop an "early warning system" to prevent future genocides.

Feinstein was known around the world as an advocate for Holocaust survivors and genocide education, and in particular, for his expertise on artistic expression and genocide. In addition to his CHGS responsibilities and activities, he served as an art consultant and guest curator for numerous museums, universities and art galleries in Minnesota, Florida, New York and Washington, D.C.

"Above all else," said his colleague Eric Weitz, "Stephen Feinstein was a great humanitarian, someone with a profound belief in the

value of research and education, a person who truly believed that if we had just one more lecture about Darfur, ran one more outreach session with teachers on the Armenian Genocide, taught one more course on the Holocaust and genocides, it really could make a difference and the world would be a better place for all of us.”

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CECIL
C. CUTTING

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, Dr. Cecil C. Cutting, the pioneering physician who served as the first Executive Director of The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG) died Sunday, March 2 at the age of 97. His death came one day after the physicians of TPMG came together to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the group, and to honor his contributions and the Medical Group's achievements.

Dr. Cutting was the first physician hired by Dr. Sidney R Garfield when Dr. Garfield joined forces with Henry J. Kaiser to provide prevention-oriented, prepaid care for the workers building the Grand Coulee Dam in 1938. When the U.S. entered World War II, and Henry Kaiser was awarded the contract to build Liberty ships in the shipyards in Oakland and Richmond, Drs. Garfield and Cutting moved the innovative health care program to Richmond, California. They provided medical care for Kaiser's 200,000 workers at wartime shipyards in Richmond, California; Vancouver, Washington; and Portland, Oregon, as well as at Kaiser's Steel Mill in Fontana, California. Based on the quality of care they were able to provide to the shipyard workers, Henry Kaiser's shipyards set records for the speed with which seaworthy Liberty ships were completed in support of the war effort. The program was so successful, and the care delivered of such high quality, that the unions representing the workers convinced Drs. Garfield and Cutting and Mr. Kaiser to open the program to the public when the war ended in 1945.

On February 21, 1948, Dr. Cutting, Dr. Garfield and five physician colleagues founded The Permanente Medical Group, and selected Dr. Cutting as the first Executive Director, a role he held for 20 years. Under his extraordinary leadership, and in the face of serious opposition from organized medicine at the county, state, and national levels, a firm foundation was laid that set TPMG on course to become the largest and most successful medical group in the country, and Kaiser Permanente the largest non-profit private health care program in America.

Dr. Cutting was born in 1910 in Campbell, California. He received his A.B. and MD degrees from Stanford University, and completed his residency at Stanford Lane Hospital and San Francisco County Hospital in surgery and orthopedics in 1938, just as Dr. Garfield began recruiting physicians to provide care for the workers at the Grand Coulee Dam site. Despite a warning from then Stanford Medical School Dean Loren Chandler, who felt that he "could never permit Cecil to get mixed up in such an operation," and opposition from physi-

cian colleagues in the Bay Area who argued that prepaid group practice was "unethical," Dr. Cutting was attracted by the idea of combining prepayment, prevention, and group practice, and envisioned an opportunity to redefine health care delivery based on those precepts. He joined Dr. Garfield at Grand Coulee, and formed a collegial and professional partnership that would span more than 40 years, and have a profound impact on care delivery in the United States. Together they built an ethical care delivery system founded on the precepts of integration, prepayment, prevention, and multispecialty group practice, and committed to quality care, stewardship of member resources, and community benefit.

Dr. Cutting ensured that the physicians of The Permanente Medical Group would be responsible for the organization of medical services, and would have the freedom and independence collectively to manage and take responsibility for both the quality and value of the care and service provided. He established robust investments in health education and health promotion, began a research program which led to the establishment of the Division of Research, and established the first medicine and surgery residency programs in Kaiser Permanente. Throughout his life, he was one of the country's leading advocates for the benefit to society, and to the profession, of prepaid group practice.

"We wanted to create a medical environment in which the doctors' work would be interesting and stimulating, where they would have reasonable income and security, and very importantly . . . fit into the accepted framework and code of ethics of American medicine, while at the same time develop an effective and efficient alternative to fee-for-service practice," he once said. Speaking at the White House Conference on Health in 1965 he challenged health care policy makers to shift the emphasis in public debate toward keeping people well: "We ought to promote an enthusiasm for taking care of ourselves."

That same year he addressed the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and forecast the arrival of the electronic medical record, encouraging his peers not to feel threatened by computers. In the dawn of the computer age, he predicted that "All [medical] histories and findings would be recorded by computers and made available to the physician," Dr. Cutting told AAAS. "This mechanization must not be construed as an impersonalization of the relationships between the physician and his patient. The challenge is to do quite the opposite. By increasing the physician's knowledge of the patient . . . his time with the patient should be much more constructively utilized to know the patient as a person and to guide him through sickness."

Above all else, Dr. Cutting is remembered for his loyalty to The Permanente Medical Group, and his commitment to the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program.

Dr. Robert Pearl, the Executive Director and CEO of TPMG, noted that "the organizational DNA which Dr. Cutting helped to create 60 years ago can be seen today in our outstanding quality outcomes and our national leadership in disease prevention, cardiovascular care, genetic research, deployment of advanced IT systems and health care policy." In 2007 TPMG established the Cecil C. Cutting Leadership Award, to recognize outstanding physician leaders, and in recognition

of Dr. Cutting's extraordinary contributions as Executive Director of The Permanente Medical Group, and the contributions he made to improving health care in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL CHASE
DINDO AND ALL OF LIMA COM-
PANY FOR HELPING TO SAVE
THE LIFE OF A LITTLE IRAQI
GIRL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Corporal Chase Dindo of Mobile and his Alabama-based Marine Corps Reserve unit for helping save the life of a two-year old Iraqi girl, Amenah.

In December of last year, one of the Marines of the Montgomery-based unit, Lima Company of the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines discovered little Amenah was suffering from a rare life-threatening heart problem.

Lima Company stepped into action making arrangements with Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, for Amenah to have the life-saving surgery. The hospital and surgeons donated their facilities and surgical skills at no charge. The unit took Amenah and her mother to the Jordanian border where the two were flown to the United States.

Amenah's three-hour operation was a success, and she will spend six to eight weeks in the United States recovering before returning with her mother to their home in Haditha, Iraq.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cpl. Chase Dindo and the entire Lima Company for their selfless actions to save the life of a little girl. I know I join their families and friends in extending our heartfelt thanks for their outstanding service to the United States of America—they are true American heroes.

HONORING KRISTY THOMPSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kristy Thompson of Cameron, Missouri. Kristy is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Kristy has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Kristy has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kristy Thompson her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

CONGRATULATING CARL LAWRENCE ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM GILES COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, a great friend of farmers in my district and across the Volunteer State retired from thirty years of dedicated service to the Farm Bureau this year. Carl Lawrence served the Giles County Farm Bureau with distinction in service to the hard working farmers of Tennessee, and I proudly rise today to commend him for a lifetime of work for our agriculture community.

After serving his country as a combat soldier in Vietnam, Carl returned to the state he honorably defended overseas and joined the Farm Bureau in Rutledge, Tennessee. There, he earned a reputation for dedicated management and quickly earned a promotion for his hard work and diligence. Carl's efforts helped swell the ranks at Giles County Farm Bureau, from 1,600 to nearly 5,000 members, and did a great deal to ensure that the local Farm Bureau did everything it could to aid farmers throughout the county.

For all he has done, I am proud to join the Farm Bureau of Giles County in wishing Carl Lawrence a happy retirement and recognize him for a career well spent in service to the farmers of Tennessee.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE LIFE OF HOWARD M. METZENBAUM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Howard M. Metzenbaum leaves behind a legacy of commitment. His 19 years of service in the United States Senate demonstrates his commitment to the people of Ohio and to the legacy of democracy. He was not simply a legislator, but a statesman.

From a simple beginning to a self-made millionaire, Howard Metzenbaum knew the value of hard work and applied that knowledge to his political career. His character and determination drove him to succeed first in business and then in politics. He championed the working man and ensured government truly represented the people. His diligence ensured that the government was managed fairly and frugally. His determination saw through countless bills that have improved the lives of the public. It is through these traits that Howard Metzenbaum represented the best of a statesman and the best of Ohio.

Through his 90 years, Howard Metzenbaum lived a full life. His wife and four daughters remember a wonderful man and a loving father. I, along with the people of the 18th District of Ohio, also remember a true legislator and an effective statesman. It is in this spirit, that along with his friends, family and residents of the 18th Congressional District of Ohio, that we recognize in memorial, the wonderful con-

tributions that Howard M. Metzenbaum has given to his State and his country.

TRIBUTE TO 50TH ANNUAL SWALLOWS' DAY PARADE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an event that has been instrumental in shaping the community in southern California, the Swallows' Day Parade. The historic return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano is celebrated each spring as the world focuses on this wonder of nature. This year, March 29, 2008, commemorates the 50th annual celebration of the Swallows' Day Parade in Orange County, California in the beautiful City of San Juan Capistrano.

Orange County's oldest city, historic San Juan Capistrano is home to the Mission San Juan Capistrano. The mission was founded more than 200 years ago in 1776 as the seventh of 21 California missions to serve as the center of the community, and stands today as a monument to the rich cultural history of southern California. The Mission San Juan Capistrano is believed to be the oldest church in California, and is one of only two standing chapels still in use where Father Junipero Serra is known to have celebrated mass.

The migration of the swallows of Capistrano has become a symbol for nature's changing of the seasons and welcoming of spring. The cliff swallows, upon their arrival begin building their nests under the eaves and ruins of the old stone mission and other buildings throughout the Capistrano Valley. The location has remained an ideal nesting place for the swallows because the area provides an abundance of insects on which they feed.

The species of cliff swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, a small, long-winged songbird, leaves Goya, Argentina at daylight around the 18th of February, arriving in Capistrano about the 19th of March. This 30-day journey covers nearly 7,500 miles, as the swallows continue through the Gulf of Mexico along Central America to the Yucatan Peninsula, turn west to the Pacific, fly over Baja California until they arrive in San Juan Capistrano and the agricultural valleys of southern California.

Each year on St. Joseph's Day, March 19th, the Fiesta de las Golondrinas celebrates the legendary return of the swallows to the Mission San Juan Capistrano. In 1936, the Fiesta de las Golondrinas was first celebrated when a popular radio host broadcasted from the mission to announce the return of the swallows. The Swallows' Day Parade during the Fiesta de las Golondrinas continues today as an integral part of the festivities, and is recognized as the largest nonmotorized parade in the country.

I take this opportunity to honor the historic city of San Juan Capistrano, as well as the tireless efforts of the San Juan Capistrano Fiesta Association and the overwhelming support of the community in southern Orange County, California. I ask you to join me in celebrating the return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano and the rich cultural heritage of the 50th annual Swallows' Day Parade.

HONORING NURSES

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the essential role nurses play in providing quality health care across the country. Every day people with a variety of needs are served by legions of caring, qualified, and professional nurses. They are integral to our Nation's health care delivery system.

Every one can remember an experience when someone they know needed health care and a nurse was the first person by their side providing care and comfort. We all know someone who works in the field of nursing and the commitment they make to their profession, despite extraordinary challenges everyday.

More than 100 representatives of the nursing field are present in our Nation's capitol this week to give a voice to their professional needs and experiences. Nurses care for our children and serve more of our constituents than we will ever meet. Nurses deserve our time, our attention, and our respect for their views.

An adequate supply of nurses is essential to ensuring that all people receive quality care and that our Nation's public health infrastructure has the professionals necessary to respond to all natural and manmade disasters. The Department of Health and Human Services projects that the current 10 percent vacancy rate in the registered nursing professions will grow to 36 percent by 2020, representing more than 1 million unfilled jobs.

Additional congressional leadership, ongoing support, and federal funding is necessary to ensure that the Nation has an adequate supply of nurses to care for the patients of today and tomorrow.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans. Every time I visit military installations, both at home and abroad, I am constantly impressed by the tremendous job our service members are doing.

I am particularly impressed by our brave servicewomen, whom I seek out at every chance. Almost 350,000 American women are currently serving in our Armed Forces, following in the footsteps of women who have voluntarily served in every military conflict in United States history since the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolution, women served on the frontlines as nurses, waterbearers, and even saboteurs. For years, women had to disguise themselves as men in order to enlist in our military.

Although the Army and Navy Nurse Corps were established in the early 1900s, it was not until the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 that women were granted permanent status in the regular and Reserve Armed Forces.

Today, our servicewomen play an increasingly important role in America's military forces. Women are flying helicopters and fighter aircraft; they are saving lives as nurses and doctors; they are driving support vehicles and policing perimeters. We should never fail to remember the sacrifices our servicewomen and their families make to keep our families safe.

As Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus Task Force on Women in the Military and Veterans, I am privileged to honor the legacy of servicewomen in the past, the courage with which women serve today, and the enthusiasm inherent in the young women who dream of serving this great nation in the future.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce this resolution today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, due to official business in the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unable to attend several rollcall votes. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 111 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 112 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 113 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 114 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 115 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 116 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 117 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 118 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 119 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 120 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 121 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 122 I would have voted "nay"; and on rollcall No. 123 I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING KIM ANDERSON YOUNG AS THE 2008 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Kim Anderson Young on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Small Business Person of the Year for Guam.

As a young girl growing up in Alaska, Kim was inspired by her father who operated a helicopter service, Maritime Helicopters, in Homer, Alaska. She obtained her college degree from Alaska Business College in 1979 and developed a career in real estate in both Alaska and Hawaii. In 1987, the family business expanded and she embarked on a new adventure to lead the development of a new branch of Maritime Helicopters in Saipan

called Blue Pacific Helicopters. Under Kim's leadership, Blue Pacific Helicopters grew from a one aircraft operation used to perform rescues, medivacs, and tours to two nine-passenger Piper Navajo Chieftains. This success led to Blue Pacific Helicopters' acquisition by Northwest Airlin.

Kim's business and real estate successes led her to enter the title insurance business. In 1991, she started Pacific American Title Insurance and Escrow Company with a business partner, and later formed a sole proprietorship venture in 1995. She started Security Title, Inc. as the president and her husband, Ronald M. Young, as corporate secretary and treasurer.

Today, Security Title, Inc. has expanded its services to service the communities of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It is also stands as the largest title company on Guam in terms of employees, transactions and revenues. Their growth over the past year is due to company leadership that reacts quickly to Guam's real estate surge and shows the great confidence that real estate agents and financial institutions have in their title insurance products.

Kim is the driving force behind Security Title's leadership role in community relations. They have consistently contributed a significant percentage of their profits each year to local non-profit and charitable organizations that support youth sports, schools, disaster relief, military families, the homeless, abused women and children, and elderly programs. Their good works have been appreciated by our community and they have set a high bar as an example of how much can be accomplished by a business that is socially responsible and that has a deep commitment to our community.

Kim Anderson Young's business success and contributions to our community are an inspiration to our island. I congratulate Kim today on her selection as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Small Business Person of the Year for Guam and I commend her on this notable achievement.

CONGRATULATING DOLORES "LALING" McDONALD PANGELINAN ON BEING NAMED THE 2008 HOME-BASED BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dolores "Laling" McDonald Pangelinan on being named the United States Small Business Administration 2008 Home-Based Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

Mrs. Pangelinan began her business 1986 when she made the decision to retire from her full-time career to remain at home with her ailing son. As she still needed to supplement the family income while being her son's caregiver, Mrs. Pangelinan decided to put her baking and party planning knowledge to work from home. With a strong customer base of people familiar with her culinary talents, Mrs. Pangelinan was able to successfully launch "Special Events by Les Papillon."

Over 20 years later, Special Events by Les Papillon has become one of Guam's most successful home-based businesses. It has developed into a full-service party business offering cake decorating, floral arrangement, event planning, special functions organization, and prop background setting. Mrs. McDonald's home continues to serve as the headquarters, but is now equipped with multiple kitchens, extensive storage space, and a commercial van to service client needs.

Mrs. Pangelinan's success is well-deserved, and reminds us of the hard work ethic and family pride that our community holds so dearly. With this, I proudly congratulate Dolores "Laling" McDonald Pangelinan for her national recognition as United States Small Business Administration 2008 Home-Based Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACOB STEIN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the lifetime of achievements of Jacob Stein. During his distinguished career, Jacob, or Jack as his friends refer to him, has made a lasting impact on his community and our Nation. As a public, religious, civic and moral leader, his lifetime of achievement deserves both recognition and our appreciation.

In 1938, Jack Stein graduated from Columbia University and embarked on a successful career as a licensed real estate broker, a member of the Long Island Board of Realtors, and an active developer of residential and commercial properties. He also served on the board of directors of KeyCorp Bank for 25 years. However, the true hallmark of his life's work is his unswerving devotion to service, to his family, his community and to his country.

Jack has been an indispensable leader in local, national and international Jewish circles. A Holocaust survivor himself, Jack helped found the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. He is a director of the International Synagogue at John F. Kennedy International Airport, and is a member of the board of directors of the Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation. He also served as the president of Temple Israel of Great Neck from 1957-1960, president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism from 1969-1973, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations from 1971-1973, and helped author "Emet V'Emunah," the Jewish Theological Seminary's statement of principles of Conservative Judaism in 1988.

Jack has also made his presence felt in other religious communities. He presently sits on the board of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations. In the 1980s, Jack worked closely with Rabbi Mordecai Waxman during his meetings with Pope John Paul II in Miami discussing Jewish Catholic relations. Jack was also involved in the communications with the Second Vatican Council that produced the 1965 "Nostra Aetate," the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions. At the

age of 92, Jack remains active in the promotion of mutual understanding and appreciation between the Christian and Jewish communities and recognition of their shared roots.

Additionally, Jack made exceptional contributions to public service. He served as a Special Advisor in the White House under President Ronald Reagan, a member of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations, and a delegate to the Human Rights Commission. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger appointed him to the Defense Department's Policy Advisory Committee on Trade, on which he served for 7 years. Mr. Stein also was a member of the Presidential Task Force on International Private Enterprise in 1984, and he was appointed to a committee that oversaw the first elections in Namibia. As a long time friend, he remains in regular communications with President George H. W. Bush.

Remarkably, among all this activity, Jacob found time to dedicate to the academic world as well. He served as a member of the Stony Brook University Foundation, has given numerous lectures across the country and has authored many articles on religion and politics.

Perhaps most of all, Jack has always been a family man. He and his late wife Jean were married for 65 years and throughout all his public endeavors, they remained inseparable. Jack has had the pleasure of watching their three children grow and find success of their own, and has been blessed with six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

In 2007, he published a recording of his memoirs "Days of Challenge: The Making of a Modern American Jewish Leader," detailing his interesting and exciting lifetime of service. Currently, Jack writes a column for several weekly newspapers, sits on the board of the American Jewish Historical Society, and is a member of the board of the Town of North Hempstead Business and Tourism Development Corporation.

Madam Speaker, Jacob Stein's immeasurable contributions to public and community service have truly helped make this world a better one in which to live. I ask that all of my colleagues now rise and join me to express the thanks of a grateful Nation to Jack Stein for his many years of dedicated service and for his countless achievements.

HONORING JESSICA TASETANO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jessica Tasetano of Liberty, Missouri. Jessica is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Jessica has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Jessica has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jessica Tasetano her ac-

complishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is March 14, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,835 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility, as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have been giving them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,835 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is March 14, 2008—12,835 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

COMMENDING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH TERRY'S HOUSE, A BURN AND TRAUMA SURVIVOR FAMILY HOME

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of Mr. Tom Richards, The Community Medical Center Foundation, and their partners throughout the 20th District of California for joining together to launch a capital campaign to fulfill a dream—to establish and build a burn and trauma survivor family home on the campus of Community Regional Medical Center.

Community Regional Medical Center hosts the only Level 1 burn and trauma centers between Los Angeles and Sacramento, making it the primary receiving facility for patients in critical condition throughout the Valley and beyond. More than half of Community Regional's burn patients are children. Without any form of temporary housing available, parents traveling long distances for their children's care often face untenable expenses for lodging during their child's treatment. Thanks to the vision and dedication of Community Medical Center and the Richards family, there will soon be a reprieve for these families.

Inspired by his own family's struggle having a loved one miles away in intensive care, Tom Richards committed to help fill a healthcare void in the Central Valley by building a burn and trauma survivor family facility. This 17,000 square foot, twenty-unit facility will provide housing primarily for the immediate families of trauma patients, as well as a much needed family resource center, supplying information and tools for families caring for burn and trauma victims both during and after treatment.

The facility will be named Terry's House in recognition of Tom Richards' brother, Terry, who sustained serious trauma in a car accident at the age of five. For nearly five months, Richards' mother traveled 80 miles a day to be with her son during his recovery. Over 45 years later, Tom Richards hopes Terry's House will help prevent other families from having to endure the same hardship as his did.

By providing a home away from home for burn and trauma families, Terry's House will undoubtedly provide a much needed respite to ease the burden of care on families. I am proud to have such a worthy project in my district and encouraged by the commitment of those involved in bringing Terry's House to life.

RECOGNIZING MS. ANNMARIE T. MUÑA AS THE 2008 WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. AnnMarie T. Muña on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Women in Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

AnnMarie is dynamic businesswoman and an inspiration to Guam's small businesses. After working in the insurance industry for 13 years, she leveraged her expertise by forming her own company in 1994, AM Insurance (Access to Markets for Insurance/AMI). In business for nearly 15 years now, AM Insurance has become one of the leading brokers in the region with an extensive portfolio of government, commercial, and personal insurance accounts.

AnnMarie's community contributions have benefited many non-profit organizations including Soroptimist International of the Marianas, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, and SCID Kid Foundation. She has contributed her time and her energy to help these organizations raise the funds they need to fulfill their missions, and in doing so, she has helped to improve our community.

I commend AnnMarie for the expertise she brings to Guam's insurance market and for her efforts to grow Guam's small businesses. The success of her businesses, AM Insurance and Y'Ma'gas, Inc., are an inspiration to young women in our community. I congratulate her today for her accomplishments and for being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Women in Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR JOHNSON MACHINERY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization

whose contributions to the community of Riverside, CA, have been exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and outstanding businesses that enrich the lives of their employees, produce quality products, and help make Riverside a wonderful place to live and work. On Saturday, March 27, 2008, at the 108th Inaugural Dinner, Johnson Machinery will be recognized by the Riverside Chamber of Commerce as the 2007 Business of the Year.

Ruel Johnson purchased Freeland Tractor & Equipment Company in 1940. The country was emerging from the Great Depression and business was slow, however, as the Nation recovered, so did the equipment industry. Agricultural businesses purchased new farming machinery and contractors purchased equipment to build new houses, roads, and freeways.

Over 60-plus years of business, customer equipment needs have changed from primarily agricultural to heavy construction and industrial use. In 1986, the company changed its name to Johnson Machinery Co. to reflect this evolution. The company has grown from the original 12 employees to over 600, and remains dedicated to offering the best quality product and service to its customers. This dedication earned Johnson Machinery the rank of Platinum dealer in 2007, after achieving Gold Level dealer for 3 consecutive years; a first in Caterpillar history. Johnson Machinery is now comprised of five divisions.

The geography of the Inland Empire ranges from mountains with elevation as high as 10,000 feet to deserts. Due to this diversity, the industries served by Johnson Machinery are also wide ranging. Some of the major industries are: residential development, industrial development, underground and infrastructure, landscaping, cement plants, mining, sand and gravel, railroad, agriculture, resort and golf communities, and heavy construction and earth moving.

The power division, Johnson Power Systems, started as Johnson Industrial in 1977, and has nearly doubled in size since 1989. It provides on and off highway, and marine engine service as well as power generations sales, service and rentals.

In 1990, Johnson Machinery Co. acquired Eveready Pacific, a heavy-duty machine shop in the La Sierra area of West Riverside. The increased need for specialized service work caused the operation to outgrow its current facility. In 2000, Ever-Pac was moved to a new, larger facility right behind the home office on East La Cadena in Riverside.

Johnson Machinery Co. entered the material handling market in 1976 and in 1992, the Hyster product line was acquired. To reflect the new acquisition, the division changed its name to Johnson Lift/HYSTER. Johnson Machinery introduced Johnson Rental Services in the fall of 1998 and opened the first rental store in Temecula, CA.

It is my pleasure to recognize Johnson Machinery, Mr. Bill Johnson and his family and their world-class employees for over 67 years of exceptional service as well as thank them for their contributions to the community of Riverside, CA. Johnson Machinery not only provides quality products and services to their customers but also provides a positive place to work. I know that many community leaders are grateful for Johnson Machinery and salute them as they receive this prestigious recognition.

CONGRATULATING THE KLOPPENBURG FAMILY FOR BEING NAMED THE 2008 FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR ON GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Earl and Lois Kloppenburg and their family and I congratulate them on Kloppenburg Enterprises being awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration 2008 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year for Guam.

Earl Edward Kloppenburg came to Guam only 3 years after the United States liberated our island during World War II. Although Guam was devastated by the war, Earl Kloppenburg saw potential and opportunity on our island. Earl and Lisa began their business venture in 1950 with the opening of Guam Factors, a gift shop specializing in imports from the Orient. Over the years, the Kloppenburg's holdings steadily grew to include the Specialty House, Earl's Hut, The Office, The Tapa Room, the Hideaway and the Coffee Pot—some of Guam's earliest restaurants and lounges. All of these were consolidated under Kloppenburg Enterprises, Inc., in 1964.

Earl Kloppenburg envisioned the future of the visitor industry on Guam and established Pacific Island Caterers to service the Pan American Airways Pacific flights. He then established Turtle Tours and Turtle Cove, two of Guam's first enterprises focused primarily to Guam's visitor industry. Kloppenburg Enterprises, now under the leadership of Earl's son, Bruce, and grandsons, Tom, Travis and Bradley, continues to grow and now consists of Turtle Tours, The Shopping Express Bus System, Adventure River Cruise, Iruka (Dolphin) Watching Adventure Tour, Nautilus Guam (Submarine) Tours, and Agana Bay Sunset Cruises. In addition to being the market leader in Guam's visitor industry, Kloppenburg Enterprises also provides mass transit services on Guam and operates a shuttle bus system for the military community. Kloppenburg Enterprises employs 130 residents and continues to grow.

The Kloppenburg family business accomplishments are a classic American success story, and I congratulate them for Kloppenburg Enterprises being named the Small Business Administration 2008 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year.

LONG TERM CARE AND RETIREMENT ACT

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, due to advancements in technology and health care, people are living longer than ever. As a result, the United States is experiencing a rapidly aging population due to the baby boomers, those born from 1946 to 1964. Florida leads the United States in aging population. According to the American Association of Retired

People, AARP, in 2005 Florida was ranked number one in the highest population above the age of 65 at 16.8 percent. AARP estimates that Florida will continue to be ranked number one in this category and by 2020 21.8 percent of Floridians will be above the age of 65.

Long-term care can be provided in a few different ways. According to the National Long-Term Care Study, NLTCS, 60 percent of those over the age of 65 live alone, increasing their need for long-term care. With regard to nursing homes, a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that people who reach age 65 have a 40 percent chance of entering a nursing home. About 10 percent of the people who enter a nursing home will stay there 5 years or more. More than nursing homes, adult children or grandchildren are cited as the main caregivers to the elderly population. According to research conducted by the American Association of Retired People, AARP, two-thirds of older people with disabilities relied solely on "informal" help; approximately 75 percent of which was unpaid care from friends and family. With the leading elderly percent population in the country, 13.8 percent of Florida citizens 18 and above are caregivers. The AARP found that the total economic value of this type of caregiving was \$350 billion in 2006, which is more than what was spent on all "formal," hospice, paid caregiver, nursing home, etc . . . long-term care, including both institutional and home and community-based services.

Long-term care is a variety of services that includes medical and non-medical care to people who have a chronic illness or disability. Long-term care can be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living, or in nursing homes. While long-term care is often used for the elderly, it is important to remember that you may need long-term care at any age.

While there are a variety of ways to pay for long-term care, it is important to think ahead about how you will fund the care you get. Generally, Medicare doesn't pay for long-term care. Medicare pays only for medically necessary skilled nursing facility or home health care.

With an ever aging population and the variety of services provided by long-term care, most families at one point or another are forced to make a decision regarding the future of a loved one who needs assistance with everyday living. These decisions are limited and costly, and many find themselves struggling between the high price of institutionalization or informal family care. In an effort to alleviate the financial and emotional burden that families find themselves under, I have introduced the Long-term Care Retirement and Security Act of 2008.

This legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a deduction for eligible long-term care insurance premiums for a taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse and dependents; and a credit for eligible caregivers caring for certain individuals with long-term care needs. This legislation has three provisions. The first two detail the major elements of the legislation regarding deductions and credits. The final part of the bill deals with consumer protections. Specifically this legislation would:

Permit individuals to make a tax deduction in an amount equal to the "applicable percentage" of eligible long-term premiums. An "Applicable Percentage" is defined as 25 percent

in 2009/2010, 35 percent in 2011, 65 percent in 2012, and 100 percent thereafter.

These dedications would create incentives for individuals and by 2017 the number of individual LTC policy holders will increase by 9 percent and 8 percent of individuals will increase the richness of their policy.

Require coordination of deductions and prohibits an individual from making the same deductions twice.

Permit long-term care deductions to be made under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements.

Under cafeteria plans 12 percent increase in the number of active employees with LTC policies by 2017, as well as, flexible spending accounts creating an incentive for individuals to enroll in FSAs and use their funds towards LTC.

Establish an "applicable credit" for caregivers of those with long-term care needs. An "applicable credit" refers to \$1,500 in 2009, \$2,000 in 2010, \$2,500 in 2011, and \$3,000 for 2012 and thereafter. The applicable credit is multiplied by the number of individuals with respect to whom the taxpayer is an eligible caregiver.

Establish consumer protections based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners recommendations for qualified long-term care policies.

Creating incentives and helping families to afford long-term care insurance will encourage many more Americans to take personal responsibility for their long-term care needs, not only providing more LTC coverage for Floridians but preserving public funds for those who need them.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important tool for all Americans' financial and health security.

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF ICERD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to introduce a resolution which recognizes the enduring value of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ICERD, as a cornerstone of global efforts to combat racial discrimination and uphold human rights.

To monitor the implementation of this important agreement a number of multinational organizations continue to cooperate as partners, including the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, CERD; the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR; the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ECRI; and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, EUFRA.

Recently, CERD held its 72nd session in Geneva, Switzerland to review anti-discrimination efforts undertaken by the Governments of Fiji, Italy, the United States, Belgium, Nicaragua, Moldova, and the Dominican Republic. At this session, the United States received a response to its April 2007 report it submitted

to CERD detailing measures taken to adhere to the convention. The "Concluding Observations" which CERD responded with includes a number of important achievements that we should be proud of as Americans, but also a number of challenges we must still unite together to address. Until the displaced of Hurricane Katrina are housed and hate crimes are eliminated from our streets and workplaces, we must be vigilant in our quest to be the world leader in tolerance.

Madam Speaker, I call my colleagues to join me in reaffirming the commitment that the United States has made in ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This resolution is the first step in recognizing the value of this international commitment, and I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its expedited passage.

CONGRATULATING FAYE BALMONTE VARIAS ON BEING NAMED THE 2008 SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Faye Balcombe Varias on being named the United States Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year for Guam.

Ms. Varias began her nearly 10-year-long career as a freelance writer for multiple publications, and today, she serves as the editor for Glimpses of Guam, one of the island's leading publishing and advertising agencies. As editor, she has been instrumental in the development and expansion of the Guam Business Journal, Marine Drive Magazine, and R&R Pacific. Through these publications, Ms. Varias has brought exceptional editorial coverage of Guam's small business news.

Ms. Varias' community efforts cross the spectrum. She has volunteered in schools, organized award-winning events, and committed to teaching our youth about the journalism profession. I congratulate Faye Balcombe Varias on her professional success thus far, and I join our island in celebrating her national recognition as Guam's U.S. Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portland State University men's basketball team on achieving their first-ever birth to the NCAA Division I Championship Tournament. The Vikings capped off their historic season with a 67-51 win in the Big Sky Conference Championship game over

Northern Arizona University at the Rose Garden in Portland. PSU finished their regular season with a 29–2 record, and were undefeated in the Big Sky Conference Tournament. On Sunday, the Vikings will learn who they will play in the first round of the “Big Dance.”

The NCAA Tournament is one of the great institutions in all of collegiate sports. It brings together the best college teams from across our Nation to compete for basketball’s greatest prize. Oregon is proud of every one of these outstanding young men and their coaches.

It is also fitting that we should take this opportunity to recognize the entire Portland State community. As Oregon’s largest university, PSU is a source of pride for our state. The Viking’s athletic achievements reflect the spirit and work ethic of their university, and I am proud to honor their achievement today.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize each member of the PSU men’s basketball team individually, beginning with Head Coach Ken Bone, Assistant Head Coach Tyler Geving, Assistant Coaches Curtis Allen and Eric Harper, and Director of Basketball Operations Tyler Coston. Furthermore, I congratulate the 2007–2008 PSU Viking’s: Brian Curtis, Jeremiah Dominguez, Justynn Hammond, Deonte Huff, Jaime Jones, Lucas Dupree, Tyrell Mara, J.R. Moore, Scott Morison, Andre Murray, Phil Nelson, Mickey Polis, Julius Thomas, Alex Tiefenthaler and Dominic Walters.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding young men. On behalf of the entire state of Oregon, congratulations and good luck. Go Vikings!

SEATTLE TIMES EDITORIAL: A
CHANCE TO STAND UP

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following article from Monday, March 10, 2008 into the RECORD:

A CHANCE TO STAND UP

Congress has a chance to do what the Federal Communications Commission did not. Protect democracy and serve the public.

The Senate can start by adopting North Dakota Democrat Sen. Byron Dorgan’s “resolution of disapproval.” The grumpy-sounding legislation would scrap a new FCC rule that lifts the cross-ownership ban, which forbade a company from owning a newspaper, television station and radio station in the same market. The FCC adopted a sneaky new rule change in December. Commission Chairman Kevin Martin portrayed the new rule as restrained because it would only apply to the nation’s top 20 media markets. A closer reading reveals that it is far-reaching, allowing for exceptions.

Not encouraging, considering the FCC’s demonstrated willingness to hand out exemptions to its rules.

The FCC’s troubling rush to appease big media conglomerates must be checked. The public was overwhelmingly against media concentration at every FCC hearing in the past couple of years. The commission not only ignored its public-interest charge, but also disregarded its own studies that showed the damage done to local news by consolidation.

This is not the first time the Senate has pushed back against the FCC. A resolution was broadly supported in 2003 to block an earlier FCC attempt to abolish the cross-ownership ban. Republican opposition was led by Sen. John McCain. The vote ended up being symbolic because the Republican-held House refused to enact its own resolution.

Washington has changed since 2003. Expect the Senate to get this resolution through, and for the House to follow.

More media consolidation will further gut the news outlets that are essential to maintaining a vigorous, informed democracy. Congress has a chance to slap the FCC back into line, while protecting the public at the same time.

HONORING U.S. SENATOR HOWARD
METZENBAUM

HON. STEVEN C. LaTOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Howard Metzenbaum, the tenacious and scrapping Senator from the State of Ohio who died this week at the age of 90.

I never had the privilege of serving in the Congress with Senator Metzenbaum, as he retired the same year I was elected. Nevertheless, I followed his career closely from the sidelines and admired him because he was so truly authentic and larger than life. Agree with him or not, he was one of the most important political figures in our State in the last century. I respected Senator Metzenbaum because he was so true to himself and his core beliefs and values, even when they were immensely unpopular. He was unflinchingly liberal and made no apologies for it. The Buckeye State—long before we’d been tagged red or blue—consistently rewarded him at the polls for his fighting spirit and his “don’t mess with me” attitude.

In Metzenbaum, Ohioans had a tenacious, extraordinarily hard-working and committed Senator who helped elevate so many issues of importance to Ohioans to the national stage. One of his most remarkable accomplishments, in my estimation, was giving workers 60 days notice of plant closings, a scenario that has become all too familiar in our State. He is best known for championing workers’ rights and the middle class, challenging and aggravating corporate America, and ferreting out wasteful spending. Yet, he had a soft and compassionate side as well, and led the effort to change the law to make it easier to adopt a child of a different race. That one legislative victory made adoption a reality for countless families, and gave so many children a loving home.

Howard Metzenbaum was a man of remarkable wealth, yet he chose to devote so much of his life to public service. He brought to Washington the same work ethic that he’d bestowed on his business affairs, and never seemed to slow down or coast as his years in the Senate stretched on. He left the institution just as feisty and combative as he’d arrived.

Today, far too many politicians’ choices are guided by polling data, focus groups and the ramblings of pundits and talk show hosts. Senator Metzenbaum left public life before the Internet took hold and the media feeding frenzies crested, yet I have to believe that the Jun-

ior Senator from Ohio wouldn’t have been tamed or tempered by talk radio, 24-hour news cycles or the blogosphere. To the contrary, I think it would have emboldened the unapologetic, unabashed and ferocious liberal who, against many odds, earned the respect and support of so many Ohioans.

This week, Ohio and the Cleveland area lost a political giant. My thoughts and prayers are with the Metzenbaum family.

REAUTHORIZING THE COASTAL
ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, nearly half of the population of the United States lives along our country’s 95,331 miles of ocean and Great Lakes coastline. The 153 million people who live and work in the coastal zone—roughly 11 percent of the total U.S. land area—contribute tens of billions of dollars to our national economy. For example, roughly \$700 billion in cargo and merchandise moves through our country’s ports on an annual basis.

While the country’s coastal zone remains intrinsically linked to our entire economy, coastal regions are also home to a variety of incredibly valuable natural resources, such as commercial fisheries, coral reefs, coastal estuaries and wetlands, mineral resources, and vital fish and wildlife habitat. Moreover, at a time when our economy and the environment are both in need of attention, and when cooperation between the Federal government and the States and territories has never been more essential to address future challenges created by a changing climate, it is important for the Congress to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Reauthorization of this Act re-emphasizes the importance of maintaining a balanced management approach in this critical geographic area.

The initial passage in 1972 of the Coastal Zone Management Act championed an innovative and forward-thinking strategy to address the complexity of issues, the needs of individual States and territories, and the national interest to ensure the long-term, sensible management of the country’s entire coastal zone. The Act was designed as a voluntary federal-state partnership. States and territories receive cost sharing grants to develop and subsequently implement State management programs that comply with broad Federal policies. For example, State and territorial coastal zone management programs encourage comprehensive planning to enable both the protection and development of coastal lands where possible. State and territorial coastal programs also strive to restore and enhance coastal resources, perpetuate water-dependent uses and preserve coastal public access.

States and territories also gained an equal authority, known generally as “Federal Consistency” to review all Federal agency activities or Federally-permitted activities for the

coastal zone to ensure compatibility with Federally-approved State or territory coastal programs and policies. While at times controversial, consistency reviews emerged as a remarkably successful tool in facilitating cooperation between the coastal states and territories and the Federal agencies. Although participation in the Coastal Zone Management program is voluntary, 34 out of 35 eligible coastal States and territories are now fully participating in the program, and collectively, 99 percent of U.S. coastlines fall under the Act's authority.

The territory I represent, Guam, proudly participates in the coastal zone management program. Because Guam is an island, our entire land area is considered a coastal zone. Important and unique management issues regarding development frequently arise for our community, including impacts on cultural and historic resource preservation, water quality, and the integrity of coral reef ecosystems and our watershed habitat. For example, under the Guam Coastal Management Program, analysis of damages from coastal hazards led to the development of an Environmental Emergency Response Plan that our community relies upon in preparing for and responding to typhoons. This Plan allowed our community to successfully respond to coastal and environmental challenges arising from recent typhoons that struck our island, including Typhoon Chata'an in July 2002 and Super Typhoon Pongsona in December 2002. This plan is but one example from many that demonstrate the practical and positive impact of the Coastal Zone Management Act for Guam.

Since the Act's enactment in 1972, Congress has amended it on various occasions in order to address changing circumstances and needs. Among such refinements was the establishment of a system of National Estuarine Research Reserves, authorization of the Enhancement Grant Program to help States and the territories address new and emerging issues, and the establishment of the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program to address the present and growing threat to coastal waters caused by polluted run-off.

Today, our country is presented with coastal zone challenges that were unforeseen and not addressed in previous reauthorizations of the Coastal Zone Management Act. These challenges include climate change, aquatic nuisance species, increased risk exposure to catastrophic storms and natural hazards, and the preservation of open space in the midst of an expanding human footprint. Many of these challenges were identified by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy in 2004 and the Pew Oceans Commission in 2003. In addition, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Coastal States Organization (CSO) initiated in 2007 a joint comprehen-

sive analysis of the Act to see if and how it might be amended to better address the challenges of the future. I believe it is important to reauthorize this Act with input from the States and territories, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and scientists and coastal community stakeholders. Any reauthorization of the Act should be oriented toward improving our ability to better prepare for and respond to future challenges impacting the health and integrity of the ecosystems within our country's coastal zones.

It is for these reasons that I introduced H.R. 5451, the Coastal Zone Reauthorization Act of 2008, to reauthorize and increase appropriations to implement the Coastal Zone Management Act. I was joined in doing so by other members of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans. Together we are committed to addressing this reauthorization opportunity and objective in a bipartisan fashion. On February 28, 2008, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans convened for a hearing on H.R. 5451 and received testimony from the Administration and stakeholders. I fully recognize that this bill is a placeholder and a starting point for a much more substantive dialogue as we begin to address the new realities facing our country's coastal zone. I hope my colleagues will join us in this effort to reauthorize this landmark environmental law, and to ensure that we leave for our children and grandchildren a coastal zone that is vibrant, healthy and welcoming to all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR
HOWARD METZENBAUM

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to an extraordinary person, former Senator Howard Metzenbaum.

The Honorable Howard Metzenbaum was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He came from humble beginnings, "his father scrapped to make a living, buying and selling second hand goods." He graduated from Glenville High School in Cleveland and later matriculated to Ohio State University where he earned both his bachelor degree and a Juris Doctor degree in 1939 and 1941 respectively.

Metzenbaum served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1943 to 1947. He was subsequently elected to the Ohio Senate from 1947 to 1951. In addition to his dedication to public service, he also was a savvy astute businessman who would later become one of

the Senate's wealthiest members. It has been noted that if he had not chosen a life of committed public service he would have easily become one of America's wealthiest businessmen. Metzenbaum said, "I was born knowing how to make money," however he was guided by the saying, "Is it more important to have \$10 million than \$9 million?"

In 1974, when Senator William B. Saxbe from Ohio resigned from his seat to accept the nomination as U.S. attorney general, Governor Jack Gilligan appointed Metzenbaum to fill out the remainder of Saxbe's term. It was not until 1994 that Senator Metzenbaum retired after 19 years of service in the United States Senate.

While in the United States Senate Howard Metzenbaum was an instrumental member of the Senate Judiciary committee where he was well known as a powerful advocate of antitrust and consumer protection issues, as well as a staunch proponent of pro-choice abortion rights. He was often referenced as "Senator No," because many of his colleagues knew that if he was opposed to a particular measure his opposition created a great hindrance to its chances of passing.

In the Senate, Metzenbaum devised a different method of filibustering by introducing multiple amendments to bills in place of terminating a piece of legislation by long periods of debate. Senator Metzenbaum championed several important pieces of legislation, most notably the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, which required warning periods for large factory closures; the Brady Law, which established a waiting period for handgun purchases; and the Howard M. Metzenbaum Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA) (U.S. Public Law 103-82), which prohibits federally subsidized adoption agencies from delaying or denying child placement on grounds of race or ethnicity. Upon his retirement in 1994 the Cleveland Plain Dealer referred to him as, "The last of the ferocious New Deal liberals."

After leaving the Senate, the Honorable Howard Metzenbaum served as the Chairman of the Consumer Federation of America. In 2005, The United States Bankruptcy Court-house was named in his Honor in Cleveland, Ohio.

We are all blessed to have known and served our Country with former Senator Howard Metzenbaum. It is with great respect and admiration that I ask this esteemed body to keep his wife, and four daughters: Barbara Sherwood, Susan Hyatt, Shelley Kelman, and Amy Yanowitz in our hearts and prayers. May we all rejoice in having known such a great man and cherish both his memory and his legacy.