

Calvet Anderson, Sr., of Minnesota, a beloved member of the South Minneapolis community. While I regret the recent passing of Kirkland Anderson on March 14, 2008 at the age of 79, I am grateful for his lifelong service to his family, friends and his dedication and love for our community.

A native of Bolton, Mississippi, Kirkland attended the University of Minnesota from 1946–49. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war from 1950–1953, and returned to Minneapolis, where in 1954 he married Alice A. Gaskins. After starting his career at the VA Hospital and the U.S. Postal Service, Kirk then went on to operate Kirk's Mobil from 1961–2007.

Most importantly, Kirk will be remembered for his ever willingness to lend a hand to his friends and neighbors. Steadfast dedication to his community was evident through his participation on the board of the Blaisdell YMCA, his support for area schools and parks and the local Scouts.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Mr. Anderson: his wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, sister, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, friends, and community. It is an honor to stand in recognition of the memory and life of a man who gave so much. Mr. Anderson, today we thank you.

HONORING MELVIN AND MINNIE LOU SCOTT FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize two outstanding citizens of Frankston, Texas, Melvin Scott and Minnie Lou Scott.

On November 8, 2007 the Scotts celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary, an accomplishment that very few achieve. The Scotts' long-lasting marriage is one that exemplifies dedication and healthy values. In fact, Frankston citizens often ask the Scotts' advice on how they too can have a successful, long lasting marriage.

On February 21, 2008 Melvin celebrated his 101st birthday. Minnie Lou is 99-years-old. They have one son, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Melvin and Minnie Lou Scott for their longstanding dedication to each other and their family.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GAUDET FAMILY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gaudet Family of Mobile, AL. For years, Steve and Lydia Gaudet, along with their eight children, have given back to the community by donating their time and services to improve the lives of others.

At the encouragement of their friends, colleagues, and those grateful to have received their assistance. the Gaudet family was chosen for some very special recognition of their own. Earlier this year, the family was chosen by the popular ABC television show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" for a new home.

Six of the eight Gaudet children: Joseph, Chris, Todd, Patrick, Michael, and Peter, live at home with their parents, Steve and Lydia. Steve had recently been laid off from his job with a tire manufacturer, and Lydia works for Goodwill Easter Seals. Despite their own hardships, the entire family volunteers with United Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome Society of Mobile, and Camp Smile-A-Mile. a camp for disabled children and adults.

In February, the crew of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" arrived at the family's home to surprise them with the announcement they had been selected for the show. Steve and Lydia, along with six of their children, lived in an 1,100 square-foot, three-bedroom, one-bathroom home that was 50 years old and still under a bright blue roof tarp due to damage sustained by Hurricane Katrina over 2 years ago.

In "Extreme Makeover" style, the family was sent on a well-deserved, week-long, all-expense paid vacation to a resort in Arizona and given tickets to the Super Bowl. While the Gaudets were away, the family's old home was torn down and replaced with a new 3,500 square-foot home in just 106 hours.

Father and son builders, Frank Lott, Jr., and Frank Lott III, of Heritage Homes of Mobile, worked day and night alongside as many as 1,500 volunteer workers to finish the Gaudet home. In addition to the volunteers, numerous local firms contributed materials to the project and members of the community made monetary donations to the family. CVS Pharmacy donated \$100,000 to Camp Smile-A-Mile and an additional \$50,000 to be used to pay for medical bills related to the special needs of their son, Peter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Gaudet family for their selfless contributions to the City of Mobile. Despite their own needs, the entire family is devoted to making south Alabama a better place to live. I would also like to commend ABC network, the entire crew of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," Frank Lott, Jr., Frank Lott, III, as well as all of the staff at Heritage Homes, and the volunteers who contributed to providing a beautiful new home for a truly deserving family.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

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

It is April 9, 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 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,861 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 one 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." Mr. 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 that we should have given them.

It seems so sad to me, Madam Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this chamber.

And so—as small a gesture as it might be—I would ask those in this Chamber who are inclined to join me in a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude, in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this sunset memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,801 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 April 9, 2008—12,861 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SHARK CONSERVATION ACT OF 2008

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

Sharks are long-lived apex predators with comparatively small populations, making it difficult for them to breed rapidly enough to maintain populations under fishing pressure. Sharks have been increasingly exploited in recent decades, both as bycatch in the pelagic longline fisheries from the 1960s onward, and as targets in direct fisheries that expanded rapidly in the 1980s. The rising demand for shark fins over past decades has also led to increases in the particularly exploitive practice of shark finning, where fins of sharks are removed and the carcass is discarded at sea.

According to scientists, scalloped hammerhead, white, and thresher shark populations are each estimated to have declined by over 75 percent in the past 15 years due in large part to these fishing pressures. Removing these top predators drastically changes the food web structure, and marine diversity and ecosystem health. Addressing the practice of shark finning is an imperative step toward the conservation of sharks and marine ecosystems.

Congress recognized shark finning as an inherently wasteful practice in enacting the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-557). This Act prohibits U.S. fishermen from removing the fins of sharks and discarding the carcass at sea, and from landing or transporting shark fins without the corresponding carcass.

The Shark Conservation Act of 2008, which I have introduced today, includes several measures to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of that prohibition and would ensure that the intent of Congress is achieved. First, the bill eliminates an unexpected enforcement loophole related to the transport of shark fins by prohibiting vessels from having custody, control, or possession of shark fins without the corresponding carcass. This is intended to ensure that U.S.-flagged vessels are

not traveling to the high seas and purchasing fins from fishermen engaged in shark finning and bringing them into U.S. waters in an attempt to skirt the finning prohibition.

Second, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008 addresses the difficulty apparent in enforcing the statute's percentage-based standard. Existing law contains a rebuttable presumption that any shark fins landed were taken, held, or landed in violation of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act if the total weight of shark fins landed or found on board exceeds five percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed or found on board. This "fin to carcass" ratio was intended to provide a mechanism for enforcing the finning prohibition by ensuring that the amount of fins landed is proportional to the amount of carcasses landed. It has proven virtually impossible, however, to determine whether a given set of fins belong to a particular dressed carcass. As a result, there are reports of fishermen mixing fins and carcasses for maximum profit, continuing to discard less desirable, finned sharks at sea. Therefore, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008 strikes the rebuttable presumption to improve enforcement of the prohibition on finning that has existed in statute now for nearly eight years.

Finally, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008 amends the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to allow the Secretary of Commerce to identify and list nations that have not adopted a regulatory program for the conservation of sharks comparable to the United States. This amendment promotes the conservation of sharks internationally and in a manner that is consistent with the expectations placed on U.S. fishermen.

The Shark Conservation Act of 2008 reestablishes the intended protections for sharks under U.S. law. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this timely and important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 162.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXTENDING THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT TO THE TERRITORIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend eligibility under the new markets tax credit for community development entities created or organized in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This bill would make a technical correction to existing law governing the new markets tax credit program

and specifically authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to certify corporations or partnerships organized in one of the five U.S. territories as entities qualified to participate in the new markets tax credit program.

The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-554) authorizes the new markets tax credit program for the purpose of increasing incentives for investment in low-income communities across the country. Under the program, qualified community development entities (CDEs) are eligible to be allocated credits from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the Department of the Treasury. Taxpayers who then invest in the CDE are allocated some of those credits in return for their investment. The CDE must invest those funds in low-income communities, and the taxpayers are able to claim, over a 7-year period, credits equal to 39 percent of their investment. CDEs act as intermediaries for the provision of loans, investment funding, or financial counseling in low-income communities and are able to legally operate anywhere in the United States, including in the territories.

Despite the ability of a CDE under current law to legally and practically operate in a U.S. territory, a corporation or partnership that is created or organized in a U.S. territory applying for CDE certification cannot qualify for such certification under the current law. This ineligibility stems from such organizations being deemed "foreign" and not "domestic" under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. This nuance in law effectively prevents local CDEs in the territories, that is entities who would otherwise be recognized as such by the Department of the Treasury, from investing in their own communities.

The bill I have introduced today would rectify this situation which I believe is an oversight in the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000. The bill would allow for the certification of CDEs created or organized in a U.S. territory thereby enabling them, to operate and invest in their own communities. CDEs organized and operating in any one of the several States or the District of Columbia could continue to invest in low-income communities in the territories under this arrangement.

I am joined by Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands, and Mr. FORTUÑO of Puerto Rico, in introducing this bill. We look forward to working with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means to advance this bill and to support increased investment opportunities for our own communities. Ultimately, this bill is about making the new markets tax credit program work for the territories and ensuring Congressional intent behind the new markets tax credit is fully realized and fulfilled in our communities.

HONORING RYAN T. DION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to United States Marine Corps Cpl. Ryan T. Dion, a true American hero from Manchester, CT. On April 25, 2007, while serving in Unit