

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, DR. LAJEANE THOMAS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lajeane Thomas, a professor of education at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA., who was recently named to eSchool News' "Ten Who've Made a Difference" in educational technology.

Thoma's designation to this list put her alongside world-renowned technology dynamo Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates as well as One Laptop Per Child Chairman Nicholas Negroponte and Linda Roberts, former special White House advisor to educational technology.

According to its Web site, eSchool News is a marketing solutions company whose purpose is to serve the education technology industry. The company released its Top 10 list in honor of its 10th anniversary as a way to recognize people who have made a significant impact on educational technology in the last decade.

As the chair of the accreditation standards committee with the International Society for Technology in Education, Thomas has consistently kept Louisiana Tech University on the cutting edge of educational technology. In fact, it was her leadership in creating the nation's first set of national standards in this area in 1998—the National Education Technology Standards—which earned her the eSchool News' designation as one of our country's most notable "ed-tech movers and shakers."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Dr. Lajeane Thomas and her commitment to advancing educational technology for college students in the 5th Congressional District of Louisiana and throughout our Nation.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ambler on an important milestone—its 100th anniversary. Over the past 100 years, St. John's, known by many as "the little church with the big heart," has served the people of my district. I am honored to represent the St. John's community in Congress.

In 1907, Samuel F. Tholan, a young Lutheran pastor from Upper Dublin Lutheran

Church, began holding worship services for Ambler residents who were unable to travel to Upper Dublin. On April 26, 1908, Pastor Tholan's 28 member congregation was organized officially as St. John's Lutheran Church. St. John's was housed in the Ambler opera house until 1913, when it moved to the congregation's current home at the corner of Race and Ridge Streets in the heart of downtown Ambler.

Over the tumultuous past century, St. John's has embraced music as the fabric and heart of the congregation. On Sunday mornings, passersby are greeted with the swells of jazz, gospel, or Bach's cello suites emanating from within the chapel. In recent years, as a result of committed service to the Nation at large, St. John's has earned a new nickname: "the little church with big ideas."

In 2005, following Hurricane Katrina, St. John's held concerts to raise money for those who were displaced by the storm and sent a group of volunteers to Biloxi to aid in reconstruction efforts. St. John's also donated hundreds of musical instruments to replace those that were lost in the hurricane.

In 2007, St. John's turned their attention to the Ethiopian orphans of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Harnessing the power of their musical congregation, St. John's held concerts that raised funds for the Fountain of Life Child Sponsorship Project, which will provide support for 300 of these orphans.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church, and all of the men, women, and children of the congregation for their dedication to religious and community service. This "little church with big ideas" has had a remarkable impact on our local, regional, national, and international community. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary milestone of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and wish the St. John's family many more years of community enrichment and service.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF SEPCHE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the 15th anniversary of the creation of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE) of the greater Philadelphia area. Together, the institutions that make up SEPCHE enroll more than 20,000 students and represent the third largest provider of higher education services in the Delaware Valley. Collectively, the consortium awards more master degrees in education than any other institution in the Commonwealth and is the largest provider of teaching credentials.

Throughout the past 15 years, the eight colleges that comprise SEPCHE—Arcadia Uni-

versity, Cabrini College, Chestnut Hill College, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Holy Family University, Immaculata University, Neumann College and Rosemont College—have engaged in a collaborative approach to the challenges of higher education. Through a range of activities, services, technology and information, the consortium institutions have worked together to promote quality and efficiency of academic programming, student access, faculty development, institutional operations and community outreach.

In addition to its work at the collegiate level, the collaborative efforts of SEPCHE have had many positive outcomes for the member schools and the surrounding communities. With its development of the Mathematics & Science Institute, which offers ongoing education and training to hundreds of K-12 teachers in the Philadelphia area, the institute has been a valuable resource in curriculum development for use in classrooms.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education for its exemplary service and commitment to its students and region's communities. May its continued excellence be an inspiration to us all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD C. MOYER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Dr. Donald C. Moyer by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor the life of Dr. Donald C. Moyer.

Dr. Moyer was the first official president of the institution called Nevada Southern University which is now the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). Dr. Moyer served first as chancellor, and then as president from 1964 to 1968. Moyer spent much of his time working with students to elevate the campus experience, and he remained active in the university throughout his life, attending school ceremonies and functions.

During his tenure, the first on-campus housing facility, Tonopah Hall, was built. He also secured funds for other buildings, including the original Student Union, which was later dedicated to him. Dr. Moyer is credited for establishing the College of Hotel Administration. He raised money for the Performing Arts Center, and laid the groundwork for intercollegiate football. Additionally, Dr. Moyer worked to create the Nevada Southern Land Foundation, which used State funds to buy much of the 334-acre campus that UNLV has today. The UNLV Alumni Association was also created under his guide.

• 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.

Donald was married to his wife, Jewel, for 65 years. He had two daughters, seven grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the "Original UNLV Rebel" Dr. Donald Moyer for his contributions to higher education and to the southern Nevada community.

IN CELEBRATION OF KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a significant milestone in the history of Kings County, California; the 90th anniversary of the Kings County Farm Bureau.

My district is fortunate to be represented by three County Farm Bureaus. On April 24, 2008, one of those districts, Kings County Farm Bureau, will celebrate their 90th anniversary during their annual banquet in Hanford, California. It is appropriate at this time to recognize the crucial role that the Farm Bureau has played in Kings County and to underscore their many contributions, not only to agriculture in the region, but also to the greater communities of the county, State, and Nation.

Unlike other parts of the country, agriculture continues to be one of the major economic engines in California, providing the country with California's finest farm products. Kings County, continues to set the pace for the rest of the State by remaining one of the State's largest agricultural producers. Farmland constitutes 84 percent of the County's total land acreage and this acreage supports approximately 350 different crops; many of which are grown nowhere else in the Nation. These crops are generating over \$1 billion annually to the economy of Kings County and are shipped throughout the United States as well as foreign markets.

Kings County Farm Bureau has persevered in promoting and protecting the family farm, maintaining the treasured natural resources that are so important to California and this Nation's vitality and lifestyle. Through local determination and active participation in the legislative process, Kings County Farm Bureau is helping local agricultural producers maintain a viable system of production and delivery of abundant, safe supplies of wholesome food and fiber to our local, national and export citizens.

Kings County Farm Bureau has been recognized for its work in partnering with and promoting community service. With approximately 25 percent of the workforce in Kings County either directly or indirectly related to the agricultural industry, Kings County Farm Bureau has been a leader in addressing local issues such as air quality, water supply, water quality, conservation, property rights and animal welfare in the local communities.

More than ever today, the role of the Farm Bureaus must be preserved, honored and strengthened. As agriculture evolves, it is essential that our policies be based on current needs of this vital industry. As a farmer myself, I am proud that my family and I represent two generations of membership in Farm Bureau both in Kings County as well as Tulare

and Fresno Counties. I commend Kings County Farm Bureau to my colleagues for its presence, dedication and professionalism in serving as the voice of agriculture in Kings County. Congratulations to the Kings County Farm Bureau on its historic 90th year serving Kings County agriculture.

THE DAILY 45: 37 WEEKEND

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. In Chicago, just this past weekend, some 37 people were shot—seven of them fatally. More than three dozen people were victims of incidents that included gang-related drive-bys, an attempted robbery and other flashes of violence.

During this weekend of violence, a 26-year-old was killed in his home, two teens on the same South Side street, and another man as he sat in the office of his plumbing business.

There must be a public outcry. We must do all we can to stop the senseless violence and death. We must all band together to stop the culture of violence and replace it with a culture of peace, respect and love.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HONORABLE TIMOTHY COTNER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in remembering the Honorable Timothy Cotner who passed away on April 13, 2008.

Judge Timothy Cotner was a lawyer and judge who believed strongly in public service and whose commitment to service was developed from an early age. His parents, George and Mercedes, served as great examples for him in their commitment to public service. Mercedes Cotner was a Cleveland City Councilwoman and Clerk of Council when I served as Councilman and Mayor in Cleveland. She was a mentor and an inspiration to me as I know she was to Timothy and his late brother Gerald Cotner.

Judge Cotner was a graduate of St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University before starting his career with International Harvester and later the Cleveland Fire Department. While with the Fire Department, he attended Cleveland Marshall Law School and graduated with his law degree in 1968. He worked for the Cleveland Law Department upon his graduation and later served as Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and as Northeast Ohio Supervisor for the Ohio Attorney General. In 1982 he went into private practice but soon returned to public service upon his election as Juvenile Court Judge for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. He retired from the bench in 1992.

Judge Cotner was active in civic life in the Greater Cleveland community. He was a past president of the Lakewood Democratic Club, was an usher at St. Patrick's Church, and was active in the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Society. Judge Cotner was active in his local bar associations and served his country in the Naval Reserve.

Judge Cotner is survived by his sons James and Thomas and daughters Joan and Caroline, all of whom live in or near their father's city of residence, Westlake, Ohio. He is also survived by eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life and career of the Honorable Timothy Cotner, lawyer, judge, and community leader, who will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

H.R. 1338—THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT 2008

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day. As a cosponsor and strong supporter of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, I rise to join my colleague, Congresswoman DELAURO in calling for passage of this important bill. This legislation strengthens the current Equal Pay Act of 1963 and represents another important step in our Nation's efforts to end gender based wage discrimination.

Since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law over 45 years ago, the wage gap has narrowed less than half a cent per year. African American women earn just 63 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic American women fare worse, at 52 cents. As women grow older, the wage gap widens: women aged 45 to 64, who are preparing for retirement, earn only 71 percent of what men do. At the current rate the wage gap is closing, the Institute for Women's Policy Research estimates equity will not be achieved until 2057.

Given that 41 percent of women provide the sole source of income for their families, lower incomes affect their ability to pay for essentials like groceries, doctor's visits, and child care. Current increases in gas prices, rising foods costs, and a stagnant job market are especially impacting women during these difficult economic times.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will enhance enforcement of equal pay requirements by allowing women to sue for compensatory and punitive damages if wage discrimination is proven. This measure alone will compensate women for years of discrimination, and send a clear signal to employers that wage discrimination will not be tolerated.

Moreover, H.R. 1338 enhances training and community outreach programs that will educate employees, labor organizations, and the general public on ways to effectively negotiate salaries and benefits. These programs will develop a new generation of self-reliant women in the workforce.

Finally this bill recognizes employers who proactively adjust their wage scales to ensure that women are paid fairly in comparison to men. The Paycheck Fairness Act outlines measurable actions; and furthermore, it ensures that nationally we are addressing and

working to rectify years of gender based wage discrimination.

In my home State of California, women earn only \$55,000 compared to their male counterparts who earn \$72,000 with an equivalent education level. While I am disappointed that California has one of the largest disparities in pay rates between men and women, this is a national problem that we must rectify.

Ensuring that women receive equal pay for equal work is a matter of basic fairness that affects all working women and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very critical piece of legislation, and I applaud Congresswoman DELAURO for continuing to highlight the importance of passing this bill.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID
SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5613, the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008," a bill that I proudly cosponsored. The bill would place a 1-year moratorium on proposed Medicaid regulations by the Bush administration intended to save money.

Unfortunately, these cuts would take Federal funds from States at a time that many are struggling to meet obligations within Medicaid and other programmatic areas. By limiting access to rehabilitation and targeted case management services, the administration cynically attacks the poorest and weakest members of our society. Eliminating the reimbursement for transportation services for certain special needs students would deny them the basic right to an education. The regulations halt important payments to hospitals at a time that many across the Nation and within my home State of Hawaii are actually losing money.

Placing the 1-year moratorium would help us better assess the full impact of these disastrous cuts, and come up with a plan that controls the growing costs of Medicaid without harming quality, as these regulations seem to do. The extent of the unpopularity of these cuts is clearly shown by the expedited move by the Committee on Energy and Commerce to report the bill unanimously to the House floor, in contravention of the President's veto threat.

Medicaid provides medical coverage for the poorest and neediest of our country. It is the insurer of last resort for many who have either lost jobs or are barely subsisting. To take away these funds at this time is cruel and undermines the intent of the very program. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER R.E.
"GENE" BROWN

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pender County Com-

missioner R.E. Brown of Burgaw, North Carolina, who recently passed away at the age of 85. Affectionately referred to as "Gene" by those who knew him and those he served, Commissioner Brown had been a commissioner in the town of Burgaw for over 20 years, and was serving as mayor pro-tempore. As a native of southeastern North Carolina and as a public servant, he offered an unwavering service to everything he did and to everyone who knew him, and he had admirable commitment to his responsibilities as an elected official.

Truly an asset to his community, Commissioner Brown understood the people he represented and cared deeply about making a positive difference in their lives. Over his lifetime, Brown dedicated himself to both government and public service. He was a member of the U.S. Army during World War II, and afterward he served for 42 years as the postmaster in the towns of Burgaw and Wallace. He was active in several community organizations, including the Burgaw Jaycees, the Burgaw Lions, the King Solomon #138 Masonic Lodge, and was an original member of the Pender County Rescue Squad. He was chairman of the Pender Adult Services executive board. A man of faith, he was also a member of Burgaw Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. In honor of his extensive involvement and giving spirit, Brown was awarded the North Carolina Governor's Award for Volunteerism and Community Service in 2004. A father of three and grandfather of five, Brown leaves behind his wife of 57 years.

Commissioner Brown's dedication to the town of Burgaw, both as a citizen and as an elected official, is an inspiration to us all. His record of service is a strong representation of what can be accomplished through devotion to a community and its people. May God bless his family, and may we always remember the leadership and life of Commissioner Gene Brown.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, roughly 60 years ago today, Harry Truman had a problem.

After 2,000 years as "strangers in a strange land," the Jewish people were about to establish a homeland in the land of their fathers. Many Americans believed that our Nation would support the aspirations of the Jewish people. However, President Truman's own Secretary of State threatened to vote against the President in the next election if Truman backed Israel.

At midnight on May 14, 1948, Israel declared independence. Eleven minutes later, America recognized the new state. Truman's act of courage created an essential and vital bond. Every American Government since that day has recognized America's special relationship with Israel.

Since 1948, Israel has shown the world true courage and perseverance. They have made

the desert bloom, fended off countless acts of aggression and built a lasting testament to the potential for democracy and freedom in the Middle East. Today, Israeli citizens speak dozens of languages and come from hundreds of countries. They include war-scarred Holocaust survivors, refugees from the ghettos of the Eastern Bloc and young pioneers from the New World. What they share is a common love of their country and commitment to their people. Like America, Israel has turned its diversity into a source of strength and pride.

In New Mexico, we have a great deal of respect for those who make the desert bloom. Israel now ranks as New Mexico's 11th leading trade partner and since 1996, we have exported more than \$490 million worth of goods to Israel. In 2006 alone, our State produced nearly \$3 million in defense products for the Israeli military. Like those throughout New Mexico, I have consistently supported Israel's efforts to defend itself against terrorists and others who seek to harm her, and to seek peace with her neighbors.

As we pass this resolution honoring the 60th Anniversary of Israeli Independence, I want to express my congratulations, my support, and my hope that the next 60 years will bring peace and prosperity to Israel and the region.

HONORING PHILIP A. INGEGERNI
OF BANGOR, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to speak in honor of the life and times of Philip Ingegneri, who was a dedicated public servant, a true friend of Maine, and a loving husband and father.

For over 30 years, Phil Ingegneri served his country as a special investigator for the Internal Revenue Service. His work in special investigations took him to cities across the eastern seaboard and even to postwar Europe, where he was stationed in Paris, France.

When the opportunity arose in the 1950s, Phil jumped at the chance to move his beloved wife, Roslyn, and two young children, Philip and Lois, to Bangor, Maine, where they quickly integrated into that vibrant community.

After a long and distinguished career serving his country, Phil Ingegneri was elected to the Maine House of Representatives, where he dedicated his efforts to improving public education for all of Maine's citizens.

I am sad to announce Philip Ingegneri passed away this Saturday evening at the age of 97. However, it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives his service and contributions to our Nation and the great State of Maine. His dedication and love for his family, community, and country is a fine example for all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, I missed recorded

votes due to unforeseen circumstances. Had I been present, the record would reflect the following votes:

H. Res. 981: Recognizing March 6, 2008, as the first-ever World Glaucoma Day, "yes";

H.R. 5151: Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places, "yes"; and

H.R. 831: Coffman Cove Administration Site Conveyance Act, "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 322.

Following the allied victory in World War II, the United Nations voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine, leading the way for the people of the region to create, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel. United States recognition of the State of Israel came within hours of Israel's creation. Since that historic day in 1948, the United States and Israel have remained steadfast allies and friends. On May 11, 1949, the Government of Israel was officially admitted as a member of the United Nations.

Since the creation of the State of Israel, enemies of freedom and peace have persistently attempted to undermine Israel's right to exist. The very day after the creation of Israel, rogue Arab forces from surrounding Middle Eastern countries invaded the land given to Israel based on the U.N. partition. Though less than 24 hours old, the nascent country staved off the invasion, and on June 7, 1949, a ceasefire was called, resulting in Israel acquiring western Galilee, a broad corridor through central Palestine to Jerusalem, and part of modern Jerusalem.

Subsequent attempts to undermine Israel's security have all failed, and Israel has become stronger at each turn. In 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982, attacks on Israel by her neighbors in the region were met with fierce resistance and resounding defeat for Israel's enemies.

In 1988, Yasir Arafat, then leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization—a group which had for decades fiercely opposed Israel's right to exist—officially acknowledged Israel's sovereign right, and announced his willingness to enter negotiations for peace. Although peace talks have yet to produce a lasting accord, discussions between the relevant parties have met with progress. It is my firm belief that peace can and will be achieved in the region. It is clear that Israel's right to exist is fully established. The United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with her friend until and beyond that day when peace is established.

Israel is a shining example of the success that a democracy can produce. Because of the freedom that Israelis enjoy, Israel has been at the forefront of innovation. Israeli scientists have made significant contributions to genetics, medicine, electronics, engineering, and the high-tech world. Indeed, the very cell phones that the world over has become ac-

customed to using were first invented by Israeli entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the State of Israel on her 60th Anniversary. I encourage my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 322.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support of H. Res. 1112, a resolution recognizing 2008 as the International Year of the Reef.

I have the great honor of representing the Florida Keys, an area rich in natural wonders including two national parks, four national wildlife refuges, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary—one of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the Nation. The natural and cultural resources and environmental setting of the area make it among the most diverse in North America. Within the surrounding waters are resources deserving of special consideration and protection, including America's only living barrier coral reef.

This designation is part of a global effort to raise public awareness of the value of coral reefs, the significance of the threats faced by coral reef systems, and to mobilize action to develop and implement innovative solutions and strategies to protect and conserve these important natural resources. Coral reef systems provide economic, environmental, and cultural benefits to millions of people around the world and are vital in protecting shorelines and supporting coastal economies. Coral reefs are some of the most valuable and spectacular places on earth. Covering less than 1 percent of the planet's surface, coral reefs and their associated mangrove, sea grass, and other habitats are the world's most biologically diverse marine ecosystems.

Last September, I had the distinct opportunity of participating in a dive to the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory in the Florida Keys. While in Aquarius, I participated in a live, underwater question and answer session with schoolchildren on topics such as coral reef conservation and the dangers of offshore drilling. This visit demonstrated how the Aquarius facility plays a direct role in improving our youngsters' understanding and appreciation of the marine environment.

As part of my passion for preserving the environment, I am proud to serve as co-Chair of the National Marine Sanctuary Caucus along with my colleague Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS. The National Marine Sanctuary Caucus is a bipartisan coalition of Members dedicated to increasing awareness and strengthening commitment to our Nation's cherished marine sanctuaries. The caucus promotes understanding of how national marine sanctuaries help to safeguard our natural heritage and economic well-being. It also serves to inform local communities about the importance of maintaining these ecosystems for future generations to enjoy, educates Members of Congress on the importance of sanctuary protection and management, and ensures that

adequate resources are directed to foster and restore these vital habitats.

I would like to also take this time to recognize the incredible National Marine Sanctuary officials in my district, including Billy Causey and Commander Dave Score, as well as Sanctuary System Director Dan Basta, for all of their work on behalf of our underwater ecosystems.

Once again, I would like to express my support for designating 2008 as the International Year of the Reef. Through this designation, it is my hope that it will encourage further research and development efforts to preserve coral reefs around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on April 22, 2008, I missed rollcall votes numbered 205, 206, and 207. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 205, 206, and 207.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY LANDSAT SPACECRAFT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House yesterday passed my resolution, H. Res. 891, on Celebrating 35 Years of Space-Based Observations of the Earth by Landsat Spacecraft. I would like to thank my colleague, Representative REGULA from Ohio, who has joined me as an original cosponsor of this resolution.

It is only fitting that we celebrate Landsat and its thirty-five year record of space-based observations of the land at a time when we are beginning to address the current and future implications of climate change. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program recently recognized Landsat noting that "Landsat data are invaluable for studying the land surface and how it affects and is affected by climate." I thank my colleagues in Congress for continuing to support Landsat and for enabling the development of these long time-series data that are so important for research on climate variability.

The data collected by Landsat satellites are being used by almost all Federal agencies, by state, regional, and local governments, by researchers and private industry. I held a field hearing earlier this month in Colorado on the important ways in which remote sensing data, including Landsat imagery, can help our state and local officials carry out their responsibilities more effectively. The broad application of these data to provide scientific and societal benefits testifies to the nation's sound investment in space technology. We owe our thanks and appreciation to the talented and dedicated scientists, engineers, and professionals who have contributed to Landsat and its success.

Mr. Speaker, there is more to be gained from the data collected by Landsat satellites, and there are still issues to be resolved to ensure that the nation can get the best return on its investment in Landsat's capabilities. However, I have no doubt that through support for the research, technology, and education required to improve Landsat data collection and applications, the returns from this national investment will continue to multiply. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that the benefits derived from this important record of civil observations of the land, as collected from Landsat satellites, continue to expand for another 35 years.

URGING PRESIDENT BUSH TO SIGN INTO LAW H.R. 1922, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE AND THE SURROUNDING FEDERAL LAND IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AS AN OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA AND AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE SYSTEM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep appreciation for the House and Senate for passing H.R. 1922 and S. 1143, resolutions which designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and surrounding areas as an Outstanding National Area. As a proud cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the efforts of my good friend from Florida, Congressman TIM MAHONEY, for introducing this important legislation and for the House leadership for bringing it to the floor for a vote on March 4, 2008. The Senate version of the bill, S. 1143, was introduced by Senator BILL NELSON and was passed by the Senate on April 10, 2008.

This legislation helps to promote the environmental and historic preservation of this important site and is a valuable step toward promoting these ideals throughout America. The historic significance attached to this lighthouse is truly remarkable. Besides guiding sailors through the nearby waters, it has also served as a symbol of local history and, indeed, our Nation's history as a whole.

The need for a lighthouse in Jupiter arose because of coastal reefs which made nautical activity very dangerous in the region. The lighthouse was designed by then Army Lieutenant George Mead, who would later lead the Union Army to victory as a general at the Battle of Gettysburg. Not only did its designer win a decisive Civil War battle, but the lighthouse was also later used extensively by Union sailors, further aiding the fight against secession. However, preliminary construction of the lighthouse proved to be an arduous task, with malaria, other diseases, and raids from some of the local populations taking a significant toll.

This lighthouse has served not only as a beacon for Florida's sailors but also as a reminder of the importance of our history. We must always remember the special circumstances concerning the history of the lands around the lighthouse. For centuries,

Native Americans lived and flourished in that area. On numerous occasions, they quartered runaway slaves and welcomed them into their communities. Today, the influence of these native peoples can still be felt. In fact, both Jupiter and Hobe Sounds' names were derived from the Hobe Indians who once lived in the region.

I would be remiss to not mention the natural beauty of the region. We are lucky to have such a pristine example of what Florida can offer to our nation's environmental diversity. The river itself is home to countless species of plant and animal life which live together in harmony and help to define the entire region. We have a duty to work toward preserving this land and all the species that thrive there.

The lighthouse at Jupiter Inlet and the surrounding area have a deep historical connection to our country and are a testament to the necessity of conservation efforts in our nation's varied habitats. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for passing this bill, and I urge the President to sign this into law and designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse as a National Landscape System.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be a cosponsor of the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 and very pleased that a bipartisan agreement was reached to bring the bill up under suspension of the rules because it's essential for the House of Representatives to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Over 2,100 organizations across the country have told Congress that we have to stop the seven regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, over the last year because they threaten the loss of \$50 billion in Federal funding for key healthcare services. California's Governor Schwarzenegger has estimated that the regulatory changes will place an additional \$12.5 billion burden on California alone.

CMS has claimed these cuts are being imposed to eliminate waste from the Medicaid program. Far from addressing "inappropriate" payments, the seven regulations that CMS adopted will cut legitimate and necessary care for the most vulnerable in our society. Rather than using the power it already has to address waste, fraud, and abuse, CMS has taken the wrong turn by simply declaring that it will not pay for services.

CMS is saying "no" to rehabilitation services to help people with profound disabilities and medical conditions maintain or gain function.

CMS is saying "no" to case management services that help people get the medical care they need and are entitled to; this includes services for individuals with disabilities who are trying to move out of institutions and into the community.

CMS is saying "no" to specialized transportation to help children with disabilities get to and from school.

CMS is saying "no" to compensating safety-net hospitals for their critical services to the communities.

By opposing this bill, we will stop the implementation of these draconian regulations. The bill will require an HHS study and report on the regulations and their impacts on states, something CMS failed to do. For those concerned about waste, the bill provides additional funding for the Secretary to root out true fraud within the system. Finally, the costs of the bill are fully paid for by requiring electronic verification of assets for individuals applying for Medicaid.

With many of these regulations due to take effect very soon, it's critical that the House pass this bill today with a margin that will convince the President that a veto will not be sustained. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

FREEDOM FOR VICTOR YUNIER FERNANDEZ MARTINEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of Victor Yunier Fernandez Martinez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Fernandez Martinez, a young man of only 24 years of age and a member of the Popular Republican Party, was not even charged with committing any crime, even by the Orwellian standards and whims that make up the "legal system" in that enslaved island. Instead, he was hauled away to the gulag simply under the pretext of being a "pre-criminal social danger."

Agents of the tyranny's secret police said that they suspected Mr. Fernandez Martinez was involved in a graffiti campaign in Havana to promote freedom of expression. In fact, there was no link between Mr. Fernandez Martinez and these actions, but that did not stop the oppressive forces from detaining him and testing him for paint residue, which they did not find. This incident was cited 2 years later when he was sentenced to 3 years in the gulag because of the paranoid perception of the dictatorship that Mr. Fernandez Martinez, a peaceful dissident, is a "dangerous man."

Madam Speaker, Mr. Fernandez Martinez's mother has visited him in prison and has reported that even though conscious of the profound injustice of his incarceration he was in good spirits, a true testament of the spirit and drive of the heroes who are confined in the Cuban totalitarian gulag.

It is unconscionable that the world simply stands by, in the 21st century, and silently acquiesces to the torture, oppression and denigration of a noble people only 90 miles from the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, Victor Fernandez represents the best of the new generation in Cuba; a generation that has known only oppression and misery but that will play a central role in the transformation of Cuba from a totalitarian nightmare to a representative democracy with the rule of law for all of its citizens. We must demand the release of all those who are persecuted for their democratic ideals. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate

and unconditional release of Victor Yunier Fernandez Martinez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, when an act of random cruelty bewilders us and pulls us down, exceptional displays of generosity, courage and heroism can serve as a potent counterforce. They comfort and replenish the bereaved, and they remind us of the extraordinary selflessness our people are capable of. Nowhere has this been truer than in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Today, we are faced with the memory of the horrific events that occurred one year ago at Virginia Tech. It is no easier today, than it was then, to find the words to express the pain and sorrow that was felt across the Hokie nation.

Once again I stand here with a heavy heart and extend my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of all the victims; especially those of Emily Hilscher and Rachel Hill, two victims from the Seventh District of Virginia. We will always be left with their spirit, energy and enthusiasm that will never die, but rather will live on in our memories forever.

A TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT EMANUEL PICKETT

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Emanuel Pickett of Wallace, North Carolina, who lost his life while defending our Nation on April 6 during a mortar attack in Baghdad. In addition to his service in the North Carolina National Guard, Emanuel served as a captain with the Wallace, North Carolina, Police Department. He shall be remembered by all those whose lives he touched as the finest example of bravery, honor, and public service.

Emanuel lived in Wallace his entire life, and throughout his 34 years, worked selflessly to make a positive difference in his community. Besides working as a captain with the Wallace Police Department, he also worked as a reserve deputy for the Duplin County Sheriff's office, where he led undercover drug investigations in several surrounding counties. Emanuel's giving spirit found many outlets. He also started a crime watch in his own neighborhood, helped to found a program to mentor kids without fathers, and coached youth basketball.

Emanuel will be missed by his family and friends. He was the son of Harry and Merlese Pickett, the youngest of six children. He was the loving father of three children—two daughters, ages 17 and 10, and a 14-year-old son. Over his lifetime, Emanuel earned countless friends. Because of his thirteen years of service with the police department and his stint of

more than 20 years employed at a local butcher shop, Emanuel owned one of the most recognizable faces in his community. He was so admired within his community, in fact, that his family has received condolences from thousands of people, including some that Emanuel helped send to prison.

Emanuel Pickett was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when his life was taken. His courage will continue to be an inspiration to us all. His life is a strong representation of what can be accomplished through devotion to a community and its people. May God bless his family, and may we always remember the life of Staff Sergeant Emanuel Pickett.

HONORING MARIAN BOLTON

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marian Bolton, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, upon her upcoming retirement from the YMCA. Marian has devoted 38 years of extraordinary service to the "Y."

Marian, a nationally-recognized leader among her peers, built her career on a foundation of high principles and character. Currently the President and CEO of the YMCA of Central New Mexico, Marian has always been committed to incorporating the virtues of Character Counts, a national organization, into all programs and activities of the "Y." Because of her commitment to instilling trustworthiness, respect, caring, fairness, responsibility and citizenship into her staff, youth and their families, Marian is credited to a large extent with the success—personally, academically and professionally—of countless New Mexicans.

Marian also has been involved on the international stage with many non-profit agencies. A true champion for equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, culture or background, she has volunteered her time and unwavering efforts to conducting workshops in such areas as agency management, financial development, volunteerism, values and balancing personal and professional lives, to name only a few. Marian has also traveled to many countries whose youth are affected by such tragic conditions as poverty, hunger, slavery and lack of education and medical care. She has labored tirelessly to help improve their lives through the vital resources of the YMCA.

Marian Bolton is the consummate successful executive, who passionately cares about the lives of others. She has devoted her life to bringing as much motivation, education, training, tools for success, a positive attitude and, perhaps most importantly, hope for those striving for a better and brighter future. Her wisdom, experience and expertise is known across the globe, and she is highly sought after for consultation and training for those seeking to follow in her successful footsteps.

I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marian Bolton for her enormous contributions and accomplishments. Her shoes will be difficult to fill. On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend our very best wishes to Marian for much happiness, success and fulfillment during the next stage of her life.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution celebrating Israel's 60th anniversary. I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of this resolution.

Israel proclaimed its statehood on May 14, 1948. On its first day of existence, the armies of five neighboring Arab countries declared war on Israel. The war for independence lasted about a year and resulted in armistice separate agreements, but not before 6,000 Israeli lives were lost.

Within 8 months of independence and before the war ended, Israel held its first national elections. Eighty-five percent of all eligible voters cast their ballots to create the first 120-seat Knesset or Parliament.

A state founded by refugees of and survivors of religious persecution, Israel has been and continues to be one of America's closest and most consistent allies.

This desert nation exists in a region that is, unfortunately, as steeped in violence as it is rich in history and tradition. We must do all that we can to ensure the security of the State of Israel and its people. Just as the United States is vital to the survival of Israel, I believe Israel is also vital to the survival of the United States. Our countries are linked together on so many levels.

Unfortunately, today, Israel has new and increasing threats to its security. Palestinian rockets have been fired from Gaza and hit Israeli communities on an almost daily basis. More than 200,000 Israeli citizens are within range of these Palestinian rockets. One of the saddest aspects of the terrorism situation in Israel is that it grabs the newspaper headlines and distracts the world from seeing the many advances made by Israel in democracy and human rights, science, agriculture, transportation, and so many other areas.

Despite nearly impossible odds, Israel's will to survive and her people's dogged determination have resulted in the development of a thriving democracy in one of the globe's least democratic regions. In fact, in only 60 years Israel has grown into a mature democracy that has produced some of the finest thinkers, scientists and entrepreneurs of the modern era.

We must never forget the conditions that, in many respects, laid the foundation for the creation of the State of Israel. After one of the most horrific atrocities in human history, the Holocaust, Israel was established as a home to a nearly decimated people. It is often said that we must "never forget" the horrors and the lessons of the Holocaust. And since April is Holocaust Remembrance month, this is an appropriate time to reaffirm our unyielding strong obligation to our friend and ally and vow to "never forget" our commitment to Israel.

The United States and the all of the nations of the world have a moral responsibility to ensure and support the existence of the State of Israel.

H. Con. Res. 322 recognizes the historical significance of Israel's 60th anniversary, supports Israel as it continues to pursue peace

with its neighbors, commends the people of Israel for helping to create a thriving democracy, and acknowledges the strong bonds that exist between the two countries.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Israel on its 60th anniversary and wish her a safe and prosperous future. Support H. Con. Res. 322.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution.

The movement to establish a modern homeland for the Jewish people launched in 1896 with the publication of Theodore Herzl's *The Jewish State*. Out of the atrocities and horrors of the Second World War, the long sought dream of re-establishing that homeland was finally realized. In 1948, Israel claimed its hard-fought independence.

Since Israel's beginnings, the United States has held a special bond with this important ally. As the only liberal democracy in the region, Israel knows all too well what it means to fight against violent agents of intolerance and religious extremism for the sake of personal freedom and fair government. From the birth of their modern state, the Israeli people have struggled to keep and maintain their homeland.

I have had the great privilege of traveling to Israel. It is only in visiting this great country, that one can appreciate the beauty, history and danger that dominate the lives of its everyday citizens. Nowhere in the world is there such a confluence of religion and faith. However, peaceful worship often gives way to violent conflict, and despite the holiness of the land, terrorism has become all too common in this region.

We have stood with Israel in its fight against terrorism, and we will continue to do so. For six decades, our shared commitments to democracy and freedom, as well as our shared cultural heritage, have kept the link between our two nations close, despite existing in very different parts of the world. With passage of this resolution, we honor that bond and look forward to our continued friendship.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY IN TURKEY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, April 23rd of every year is celebrated in Turkey as National Sovereignty and Children's Day. The genesis of these celebrations is this date in 1920. On April 23, 1920 during Turkey's War of Inde-

pendence, the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to lay the foundation for modern parliamentary democracy in the form of an emerging liberal and secular Republic.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder and later the first President of the Republic of Turkey, designated April 23 as National Sovereignty and Children's Day, in recognition of the importance of children to the country's future. This was the first time that a world leader designated a day for children.

In Turkey this day is recognized as an official public holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies marked by performances by children in large stadiums that draw the attention of the entire nation. On this day children also send their own "representatives" to replace state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers, and provincial governors all turn over their positions to children's representatives. This symbolic gesture is intended to show children that they are the future leaders of Turkey and to remind current leaders that they are serving these children and the nation that they will inherit. These children, in turn, sign executive orders relating to educational and environmental policies. Children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss children's issues.

It is inspiring to know that this tradition of celebrating children's day has been adopted internationally. World Children's Day was the idea of two classmates, Funda Karagozler and Engin Ustundag (9 and 11 years old) from Ataturk School in New York. In April 1986, in response to an assignment to comment on the nationally celebrated Children's Day in Turkey, these two friends wrote a letter addressed to the "Kids of the World", inviting them to come together with the common objective of peace and friendship.

The school principal was so impressed with the letter that she sent it to UNICEF, a United Nations body dedicated to children's issues. Through UNICEF's assistance, a copy of the letter was sent to the permanent missions of the United Nations. The response was overwhelming. Everyone wanted to participate. On April 27, 1986, the UN General Assembly was opened to children for the first celebration of World Children's Day. Later that same year, the World Children's Day Foundation (WCDF) was established to oversee World Children's Day activities. In addition to the annual celebration in New York, WCDF sponsored programs and community service projects in 140 countries around the world.

The program's goals were: (1) To equip children to make a difference in their own lives and the future of their communities and nations; (2) To bring children of different nationalities, races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds together and to show them that, in spite of these factors, all people have much in common; (3) To establish the Fourth Sunday in April as the internationally celebrated World Children's Day to recognize the capability and potential of children everywhere to shape the future.

More than 5,300 children from 140 countries have participated in World Children's Day celebrations in the UN General Assembly. About four million children have participated in WCDF community service projects around the world. These projects have touched millions of lives worldwide.

I stand to commemorate this important date dedicated to the children of the world and remember its origins in Turkey in 1920.

IN MEMORY OF DAN ROSS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week, South Carolina honored a favorite son and patriot, Daniel Iradell Ross, Jr., of Blackville, South Carolina.

As a World War II veteran of the China-Burma-India Theatre, he championed a strong military to promote peace as State Commander of the American Legion. He courageously worked as a pioneer in the modern Republican Party establishing not only a two-party system in South Carolina but also the rise of Republicans from virtually no elected positions to majority status across the state.

In 1970, Mr. Ross chaired the campaign of legendary Greenville advertising executive Jim Henderson for Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Henderson was only the second Republican to run for the position in the 20th century.

In 1974, Mr. Ross co-chaired the campaign of oral surgeon Jim Edwards of Mount Pleasant for Governor with Julia Ravenel Dougherty of Charleston and William B. "Rusty" DePass, Jr., of Columbia as manager. Governor Edwards became the first Republican governor since 1876.

In 1980, as State Party Chairman, Mr. Ross was the Father of the First in the South Republican Presidential Primary. With the leadership of Executive Director Wayne Adams, the primary produced lists of new Republican recruits which fueled the Reagan Revolution with California Governor Ronald Reagan's victory in the primary, victory in the general election, and ultimate victory in the Cold War.

The following is the obituary as published by "The State", of Columbia, South Carolina on April 17, 2008:

BLACKVILLE.—Daniel Iradell Ross Jr., 84, died Tuesday, April 15, 2008. Services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, April 19, 2008, in the Folk Funeral Home Chapel, Williston. Interment will follow in Blackville Cemetery with military honors accorded. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 18 at the funeral home. Memorials may be sent to American Legion Post #91, 5130 Reedy Branch Road, Blackville, SC 29817; Blackville Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 365, Blackville, SC 29817; University Library, Thomas Cooper Library, USC, Columbia, SC 29208; or Ashleigh Place, 4435 Ashleigh Road, Blackville, SC 29817.

Born in Blackville, he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel I Ross Sr. His wife, Jeanniene Prater Ross of Johnsonville, preceded him in death. Ross graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1943 with a degree in geology and later achieved a master's degree from the University of Texas. Ross was a proud American veteran, having honorably served in the U.S. Army during WW II. He was devoted to public service, serving in various political capacities in both local and statewide positions for many years including state commander and state chairman of the Republican Party. He was also campaign chairman for former Governor James B. Edwards. Ross is most remembered for his patriotism, his service to others, and his generous spirit.

Survivors include: Helen Halford Barnes Ross, Dawn Ross Hollingsworth, Lauren Hollingsworth, Jessa Hollingsworth, Michael Hollingsworth; stepchildren: Bettis Richister, Charlene Barrett, and Maree Shay; 9 stepgrandchildren, 22 stepgreat-grandchildren, and 6 stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID
SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of H.R. 5613, the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. This important legislation will prevent the implementation of seven Medicaid regulations before April 2009. Passage of H.R. 5613 is vitally important to my home state of New York. These regulations are estimated to cut Medicaid funding by nearly \$20 billion over five years and will impact payments for safety net providers, hospital clinic services, rehabilitation services, graduate medical education and case management services. In my home district, the New York

City Health and Hospitals Corporation, HHC, the largest municipal hospital system in the country, would lose over \$500 million a year, 10 percent of the HHC budget. To give perspective, HHC operates 11 acute care hospitals and more than 80 community clinics which serve 1.3 million patients, 400,000 of whom are uninsured.

Another of the proposed regulations would eliminate Medicaid funding for graduate medical education, GME. My district is a center for graduate medical education. If the GME proposed regulation goes into effect, the impact would be devastating to New York teaching hospitals which educate a disproportionate number of our nations doctors. New York trains one of every seven doctors in the country. The loss of Medicaid funding for physician training would be \$590 million a year for all of the hospitals in New York City and \$675 million a year for all of the hospitals in New York State. Reducing the GME would not only dramatically impact New York, it would negatively impact the entire country which relies on New York trained doctors.

We must not rush to cut services to beneficiaries. Instead, Congress must have the opportunity to thoughtfully and deliberately evaluate what is happening in the States and address any concerns.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER HANSON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jennifer Hanson for her service to our community.

Jennifer Hanson, an educator with the Boulder Valley School District, has been an instrumental leader in the development of online safety protocols for our local schools and com-

munities. Ms. Hanson has played an active role in uniting our educators, business leaders, law enforcement officials and parents in a collaborative effort to protect our youth from online predators. Jennifer Hanson should be commended for her leadership and commitment to enriching our children's educational opportunities in a safe and dynamic online environment.

Jennifer Hanson was recently presented with The Spirit of Online Safety Award in appreciation of her work as the President of the Internet Safety Foundation. The Internet Safety Foundation mentored nine youths in their creation of a cutting-edge public awareness campaign about safe online practices. The culmination of their hard work will have a positive impact on our communities for years to come.

Upon graduation summa cum laude from the Metropolitan State College of Denver, Jennifer taught in the Cherry Creek Public Schools for seven years. She completed her master's degree work at Adams State College in educational technology leadership and would lend her expertise as an active participant for Project Safe Childhood and Qwest's Online Safety Coalition. Ms. Hanson has also played a vital role in the establishment of the Internet Safety Summit; a statewide assembly focused on giving our communities the knowledge and tools necessary to protect our children from the dangers of the World Wide Web.

Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Jennifer Hanson for her willingness to devote herself for the betterment of our children's education and safety.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID
SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5613, legislation halting the implementation of a package of new Medicaid rules. The proponents of H.R. 5613 are correct that halting some of these rules will protect needed Medicaid reimbursements for health care providers. However, some of the rules that H.R. 5613 blocks address abuses of Federal Medicaid dollars that should be halted. Greater efforts to ensure Medicaid resources are properly spent will help those health care providers most in need of continued support from the Medicaid program, since a Medicaid dollar lost to fraud and abuse is a dollar that cannot be spent helping hospitals and physicians provide health care to the poor.

Had members been given the opportunity to offer amendments, we could have fashioned a bill that would have protected needed reimbursements for legitimate health care expenditures while addressing legitimate concerns about misuse of Medicaid funds. Unfortunately, the House leadership chose to deny members the ability to improve this bill, and have a meaningful debate on how to ensure Medicaid's financial stability without denying care to those dependent on the program, by putting this bill on the suspension calendar.

According to some estimates, failure to implement the proposed regulations could cost

the already financially fragile Medicaid system as much as 10 billion over the next several years. Yet, the sponsors of this bill refuse to make a serious effort to address these costs. Mr. Speaker, instead of rushing H.R. 5613 into law, we should be looking for ways to shore up Medicaid by making cuts in other, lower priority programs, using those savings to ensure the short-term fiscal stability of federal entitlement programs while transitioning to a more stable means of providing health care for low-income Americans. I have been outspoken on the areas I believe should be subject to deep cuts in order to finance serious entitlement reform that protects those relying on these programs. I will not go into detail on these cuts, although I will observe that in recent weeks this Congress has authorized billions of new foreign aid spending, yet today we are told we cannot find the money to address Medicaid's long-term financial imbalances.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5613 may provide some short-term benefit to Medicaid providers, however, it does so by further jeopardizing the long-term fiscal soundness of the Medicaid program. Thus, this passage of this bill will ultimately damage the very low-income Americans the bill aims to help.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 22, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: Rollcall No. 205, Rollcall No. 206, Rollcall No. 207.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM HILL

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Hill of Wilmington, North Carolina, for his 51 years of service on the Wilmington Fire Department.

Since Hill joined the Wilmington Department in February 1957, he has improved and strengthened the department, which has nearly doubled in size. Hill has overseen construction of numerous new stations, and even helped to design new facilities. Most importantly, he has protected and served his community, often putting his own life on the line to save others. Many are impressed by his dedication and courage, and his strong religious faith; Hill is an also an ordained Advent minister. In recognition of his dedication to public service, Hill was recently inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor.

Madam Speaker, let us honor Sam Hill's inspirational commitment to his fellow citizens as his tenure as Fire Chief comes to a close. May his 51 years of enduring service remind us of what it means to be dedicated to one's community.

CONGRATULATING LOYOLA UNIVERSITY WINNER OF THE EPA'S 2008 P3 STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Loyola University of Chicago team for being chosen as a winner of the EPA's 2008 "People, Prosperity and the Planet" Student Design Competition at this year's National Sustainable Design Expo. I am proud to represent Loyola University in Congress, and I am looking forward to sharing the news with my colleagues that students in my district are addressing the significant problems that climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and rising energy costs present.

The importance of energy independence can't be overstated. Your project, "Innovative Biodiesel Production: A Solution to the Scientific, Technical, and Educational Challenges of Sustainability," to convert vegetable oil waste from the cafeteria into fuel that will power campus shuttle buses, is an innovative and creative way to approach it. I believe that this is a model for the entire country to learn from and hopefully adopt.

I hope that during your time at the P3 Expo you have had the chance to interact with other students, professional scientists, engineers, and business leaders from around the country. Your work to advance economic growth while reducing environmental impact should be shared.

It is for that reason that I was glad to hear that your project has an educational component that will advance P3 concepts to students in the university, in preschool, elementary school, and secondary school, and to the general public. I hope that I will be able to stop in on the Solutions to Environmental Problems course so I can see for myself how to produce and use biodiesel fuel.

Again, I salute and congratulate Luke Beasley, Pamela Geddes, Dan Larkin, Shane Lishawa, and Professor Nancy Tuchman, and will look forward to hearing about your work addressing our most pressing problems well into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on this occasion, I would like to speak in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. Israel is our most important and strongest ally in the Middle East, and all Americans should congratulate the Israeli people on this important milestone.

From technological advances in the fields of agriculture and medicine to the acceptance of women as equals, Israel has managed to establish a modern democracy full of innovation.

This achievement is only magnified by the fact that at 60, Israel is still a relatively young nation.

I support a two-state solution that provides for the existence of a self-governing Palestinian state with a separate national identity. However, Israel has the right to defend itself against attacks, and we must insist that the Palestinian Government recognize the State of Israel and act and speak out against suicide bombings and other acts of terror.

I believe that the United States should devote significant resources to promoting peace in the Middle East. History has shown that active and consistent U.S. diplomatic engagement can promote progress, while a passive U.S. role can lead to the opposite.

The pursuit of diplomacy with leaders in Israel, the Palestinian territories, and regional partner countries who recognize the inevitability and importance of coexistence and economic integration must continue to be a top U.S. foreign policy goal.

The active engagement of Congress in diplomacy with Israel and other countries in the Middle East is a welcome development. The international community must focus its energy on advancing prospects for a lasting, secure peace in the Middle East.

I congratulate the Israeli people on this important achievement. I am pleased to support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 322, I am glad to have the opportunity to vote for this important resolution today.

The United States recognized the State of Israel the day it was established on May 14, 1948. In the ensuing 60 years, the people of Israel have established a democratic society, developed an advanced economy, and created a thriving culture in the face of war, terrorism, and threats to its security.

H. Con. Res. 322 expresses "enduring support for Israel as Israel pursues peace with its neighbors." The importance of peace in the region cannot be overstated. Without it there can be no regional stability and no security for Israel. Over the decades, the United States has played a special role in helping facilitate the peace process in the region, and I believe we must continue to play that role.

For 60 years, the United States and Israel have shared strong bonds of friendship, common values, and strategic interests. Our support for the people of Israel has been a fundamental part of American foreign policy and remains so today. In the post-9/11 world and with American soldiers engaged in two wars on Islamic soil, I believe our historic alliance with the State of Israel has even greater significance.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Israel on its 60th birthday and send my best wishes to the Israeli people for a peaceful and prosperous future.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the State of Israel and the greater Jewish community on the 60th anniversary of their independence.

The United States supported the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948, and our two countries have been the closest of friends and strong allies ever since.

Our friendship is rooted in some deeply shared beliefs. We believe in freedom of religion, in freedom of the press, and in freedom of speech. We believe in free and fair elections. And we believe that extremism and terrorism have no place in the global community.

Since its independence, Israel has endured unstable and troubling conditions in the Middle East. They have been subject to violence and unwarranted attacks. They have been asked to compromise their borders. They have had missile strikes threatening the lives of innocent citizens on an almost daily basis. Yet, the Israeli people remain united and strong—continuing to stand up for their beliefs and for their country.

Israel is a modern success story. It is the only democracy in the Middle East. It is the only Middle Eastern country where Arabs have the right to vote for their elected officials and their political leaders. And, it is one of the only Middle Eastern nations without oil wealth that has transformed itself from an agrarian-based economy to a high tech economic powerhouse.

Today, as Israel turns 60, it is important to remember what she stands for.

I believe Israel, while small in geographic size, is one of the largest symbols of humankind's continued faith in God.

I believe her enduring spirit to survive inspires.

And, I believe in her unwavering dedication to freedom and democracy.

I am proud to be a friend of Israel's and I believe we must continue to stand with her. And today, I want to join my colleagues in wishing Israel a hearty Mazel Tov on 60 years of Independence.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EDWARD JAMES OLMOS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Edward James Olmos, winner of the 2008 CINE Lifetime Achievement Award. The CINE Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the few pinnacle leaders in the film and video industry whose lifetime contributions have left a profound impact on our culture.

A native of East Los Angeles, Edward James Olmos has been a trailblazer in the film industry as an actor, producer, and director.

The son of Mexican parents, he made his way to the big screen at a time when very few Latino actors were cast in leading roles, thus breaking the mold and setting the stage for future Latino actors to come. In his roles in movies such as "Zoot Suit," "The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez," and "Mi Familia," Mr. Olmos portrayed the daily realities of the Latino experience in the United States.

Mr. Olmos transcended cultural barriers, and inspired a generation of teachers and students to overcome adversities and achieve academic success through his portrayal of math teacher Jaime Escalante in "Stand and Deliver." Mr. Olmos' work has won critical acclaim and garnered him prestigious awards such as an LA Drama Circle Award, an Emmy, two Golden Globe Awards, and an Academy Award nomination.

Mr. Olmos is extremely active in the community and is a spokesperson for organizations such as the Southwest Voter Registration Project and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. He is also a United States Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nation's Children's Fund, UNICEF. As the chairman of Latino Public Broadcasting, Mr. Olmos continues to advocate for diverse perspectives in public television.

I applaud Edward James Olmos for his achievements and the important contributions he has made to the Latino community. Congratulations on receiving the 2008 CINE Lifetime Achievement Award.

OBSERVING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide. On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman government detained hundreds of clergymen, professionals, intellectuals, and other political and community leaders. This marked the opening of a campaign of genocide that over the next 2 years would lead to the deaths of a million and a half Armenians.

It is important to both remember this event, and to acknowledge it as genocide. Not only does it allow us to pay proper respect to those who lost their lives in Armenia at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, but it also helps us to comprehend the malevolent and inhumane events that take place in our global community today. Ethnic conflict and sectarian fighting remain an urgent issue for both the U.S. and the international community to address. The historical lessons and the exchange of ideas that flow from an honest discussion about the genocide that took place in Armenia can help us take steps to prevent further atrocities from occurring in our time.

It is my hope that today's observation and reflection on the genocide in Armenia is part of a renewed effort of focusing our efforts towards the goal of understanding and eliminating the circumstances under which genocide can exist.

COMMEMORATION OF APRIL 22, 2008
AS EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Equal Pay Day in order to address the need for equal pay for hardworking women across America. According to the United States Census Bureau, women are paid on average about 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. For women of color, the gap is even wider. It is not acceptable that these wage gaps remain despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act more than 40 years ago in addition to a variety of related legislation prohibiting employment discrimination.

Equal Pay Day marks the time of the year in which the average median income paid to American women equals the earnings of males from the previous year. On this day various groups and organizations hold events across the Nation in order to highlight the detrimental effects of continuing inequity that are felt in the form of gender segregation in the work force, the undervaluation of the types of jobs held predominately by women, and gender discrimination built into the pay system.

In the State of Ohio, the median annual earnings of men with a college degree or more education is \$65,000. In contrast, the median annual earnings of women with a college degree or more is \$47,000, nearly \$20,000 less per year. This statistic in my home state of Ohio is alarming. It is even more disturbing to know that this is a trend that exists nationwide that is not just affecting women, but also their families and children who rely upon their wages for basic everyday needs such as health care or groceries. I am proud to say that I supported the passage of H.R. 2831, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and that I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, two of the key bills in the 110th Congress that will help to close the pay gap between men and women.

African-American women have a long history of working out of their homes and have the highest labor force participation rate among all women at 63.4 percent. However, many African-American women are concentrated in low paying service jobs. African-American women comprise 6 percent of the entire country's workforce, but make up 14 percent of workers earning between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year and are less than 1 percent of workers earning over \$100,000 per year. Not only do African-American women earn less, the growth in their earnings has lagged behind that of white women, 19 percent and 29 percent respectively. At the upper end of the earnings distribution, disparities in the labor market impact approximately 1 percent of African-American women in corporate officer positions whose earnings are on average \$229,000 compared to \$250,000 for Caucasian women.

Over the last 60 years, the labor force participation of women has more than doubled, which means nearly one out every two workers is a woman. Not only are more women working, but more of these working women are mothers as well. In 1963, when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act

into law, full-time working women were paid 59 cents to every dollar received by men. Meanwhile, 45 years later in 2008, women are still only paid 77 cents for every dollar received by men. To state this more clearly, the wage gap has only narrowed by less than half of a penny per year.

According to the National Organization for Women, "If women received the same wages as men who work the same number of hours, have the same education and union status, are the same age, and live in the same region of the country, then these women's annual income would rise by \$4,000 and poverty rates would be cut in half. Working families would gain an astounding \$200 billion in family income annually."

I applaud my colleagues for passing H.R. 2831, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act last year. I now urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which seeks to eliminate the gender wage gap in our Nation. These two bills are a beginning towards an end to a societal ill that has hurt our country's hardworking families for too long. I look forward to continuing to work with the people of the 11th Congressional district of Ohio and across this country to address this long withstanding inequity in our Country.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID
SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. By passing this bipartisan bill, we can help ensure that our respective States can continue to provide needed health care to citizens who are eligible for Medicaid.

I have heard from a number of health care providers, hospital administrators, public health officials, and constituents in my district in regards to seven Medicaid regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. The message has been clear: these regulations have the potential to devastate the health care safety net in Colorado, pulling an extraordinary amount of funding away from the State's health care economy with the highest cost placed on the backs of the most vulnerable.

Though I think that all seven regulations deserve a great deal more scrutiny and discussion, there are two regulations in particular that give me serious concern. The first, a regulation that would alter the definition of "publicly-owned providers," would put 34 hospital providers in my State at risk of losing funding budgeted for serving low-income and indigent patients. The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing estimates that the State would lose \$711 million over 5 years—a loss that the Department says would put "the financial stability of the entire safety-net provider community in Colorado at risk."

The second regulation with which I am concerned would completely eliminate Medicaid funding for the Graduate Medical Education program, pulling an estimated \$60 million from Colorado's teaching hospitals over 5 years.

Our teaching hospitals, which play a critical role in providing health care to underserved communities, cannot withstand this sort of hit to their budgets without severely curtailing important services.

Broadly speaking, I think that these seven regulations ought to be much more carefully scrutinized. Where some were intended to change Medicaid policy without Congressional authorization, others responded to Congressional action by altering policy beyond what Congress intended. A 1-year moratorium will enable Congress to thoroughly examine these regulations to ensure that States like mine are not devastated by rules that, frankly speaking, appear to undermine the very purpose for which Medicaid was established. I am proud to support this bill, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that our State Medicaid safety-nets remain strong and viable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was ill and missed rollcall vote No. 205 through 207. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Israel and its people on the 60th anniversary of its founding and offer my sincere hope that the seventh decennial of its existence will usher in a period of lasting peace between it and its neighbors.

We all agree that Israel and the Israeli people have accomplished much during its 60 years. As this resolution points out, Israel has forged a politically diverse and dynamic society with a thriving economy and vibrant cultural and intellectual life. It has produced 8 Nobel Prize winners and has provided sanctuary for millions of Jews throughout the world.

I have visited Israel on more than one occasion and I was most impressed by its commitment to many of the democratic principles we cherish here in the United States. As the resolution points out, there are many common bonds between the United States and Israel.

So, Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of the Israeli people and Israel's right to exist, I agree we should take time to recognize Israel on this momentous occasion. I also believe, however, that we must take this opportunity to encourage Israel and all the parties involved to find a workable solution to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and to redouble efforts on the path to peace.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I support H. Con. Res. 322, which recognizes the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Senate Majority Leader REID, Senate Republican Leader MCCONNELL, House Republican Leader BOEHNER, Senator HUTCHISON, the Honorable Dr. Michael Ellis DeBakey and Mrs. DeBakey:

Please allow me to thank Senator HUTCHISON for her leadership; Representatives BURGESS and CULBERSON for helping to acquire the 290 signatures needed to bring this bill to the floor; Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader REID, and the leadership for considering the legislation expeditiously; the President for signing it; and I especially want to thank God for the Honorable Dr. Michael E. DeBakey.

On September 7th his life will measure 100 years. However, the most meaningful measure of life is not how long one lives, but rather what one does with the time God gives. Dr. DeBakey, your living has made it possible for others to have better lives.

You have promulgated over 1,600 publications and operated on over 60,000 patients. You have either established or helped establish: the field of stroke surgery; the coronary bypass; the mobile army surgical hospital; the National Library of Medicine; the multiple transplantation procedure; and health care systems around the world

You epitomize the truest measure of life. As Ruth Smeltzer proclaimed, "Some measure their lives by days and years, others by heart throbs, passion and tears; But the surest measure under the sun, is what in your lifetime for others you have done."

You have proven that one person can not only impact the world but that one person can change the world for the good of all. If we did not have a Congressional Gold Medal, we would have to create one just for you.

THANKING DALTON YANCEY FOR OVER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS RECENT RETIREMENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with both enthusiasm and heavy heart that I rise today to congratulate Mr. Dalton Yancey on his recent retirement from the Florida, Texas, and Hawaii Sugar Cane Growers.

For over 35 years, Dalton has represented and advocated on behalf of American agriculture. An expert in U.S. agriculture policy, Dalton has specialized in sugar, citrus and trade policy, ensuring that American growers and farmers are always given a level playing field on which to compete with foreign growers. He is the past President of the Commodity Club of Washington, DC, and the former Board Chair of the American Sugar Alliance. A true testament to his knowledge, Dal-

ton has been appointed by three American Presidents to serve on the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Sweeteners.

In addition to his professional duties, Dalton is extensively involved in many activities throughout his community. As an officer in the U.S. Army, Dalton served in Germany and Vietnam, receiving the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service. In 1969, he was a key member of Operation Holy Task Force, which brought Bob Hope to Southeast Asia.

Dalton has been active with the University of Florida Alumni Association, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Florida State Society. I have seen Dalton in action with all of these organizations, as well as the Faith and Politics Institute since its inception 16 years ago. The two of us have been together at more prayer breakfasts and meetings organized by the Institute than I can even begin to count. As a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Northern Virginia, Dalton and his wife of 33 years, Barbara—known by many of us as Barbie—are as committed to their church as they are to everything that they do.

Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege and honor of knowing Dalton throughout my career in the House of Representatives. It goes without saying that the people of Florida are losing a tremendous advocate with Dalton's retirement. He is not only an exceptional advocate on behalf of the people in my district, but a real friend to me.

I have often sought Dalton's advice and counsel not only on agricultural issues, but on so many other things that we consider here in the halls of Congress. He is, under every definition in the book, a true Southern gentleman. I thank Dalton for his service, wish him luck in this new and exciting chapter in his life, and implore him that he not stray too far from those of us who will miss him most.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID SANDIFER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Brunswick County Commissioners, David Sandifer, of Holden Beach, North Carolina, for his commitment to his community and as a dedicated man of public service. Sandifer proved himself a devoted and effective public servant and a man of good character. He was also a devoted family man and dear friend. Sandifer passed away on April 4, 2008, and he will be dearly missed.

Sandifer, who had been a Brunswick County commissioner since 1996 and chairman since 1998, also served on the board of health, the criminal justice advisory board, the Communities in Schools advisory board, the board of directors of Hope Harbor Home, the Brunswick County Jail Population Management Committee, the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority, and many other committees. Driven by love for his community and its people, he was instrumental in implementing different programs and services throughout Brunswick County. He oversaw development projects in one of the fastest-growing communities in our Nation and helped it cope with growing pains along the way. In recognition of

his devotion to public service, Sandifer was recently inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor. Sadly, he passed away just hours after this induction ceremony, as the result of complications brought about by cancer.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of David Sandifer. May God continue to bless his beloved wife, Pat, and all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for three rollcall votes on Tuesday, April 22.

If I had been present I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 205, on passage of H. Res. 981—Recognizing March 6, 2008, as the first-ever World Glaucoma Day, established to increase awareness of glaucoma, which is the second leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States and worldwide, Representative BALDWIN—Energy and Commerce—I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 206, on passage of H.R. 5151—Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places—I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 207, on passage of H.R. 831—Coffman Cove Administrative Site Conveyance Act—I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary of Statehood.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion announced to the world that the State of Israel had been created. This declaration was made in accordance with the United Nations Resolution 181 which was passed in November 1947. The creation of two states was proposed, one Jewish and one Palestinian. The new State of Israel established an opportunity for Ben-Gurion and other Zionists to realize a return to the “promised land.”

Although the new state would be tested immediately following its creation, its citizens, supporters and ideals would hold. Even at the conclusion of the first Arab-Israeli War, a constant barrage of state and non-state actors would seek to destroy this government. Sixty years later this battle continues, as the entire world copes with the challenging yet necessary task of respecting the beliefs of others and protecting the natural rights of all mankind.

The “land of milk and honey” is significant not only for its ability to offer refuge to a peo-

ple who have been persecuted for the past two millennia, but to also demonstrate the global communities' determination to right wrongs and to help their fellow man. Today there are close to 7 million individuals who inhabit Israel. Although the vast majority of those persons happen to be Jewish, there are also people who follow the Christian and Arab faiths. While there happens to be conflict currently between the Jewish and Muslim populations, the possibility of Israelis and Palestinians coexisting in peace is still feasible.

As a Member of Congress, I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit Israel, to talk with those that live there and to see the success that it has become. There exists within the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio and across the United States, a strong community of individuals who are committed to supporting our close ally. I am proud to consider myself a fellow advocate and look forward to supporting the State of Israel in the future.

May the people and the government of Israel continue to enjoy their statehood and be blessed with peace.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the 60th anniversary of the creation of Israel. On May 14, 1948, thousands of volunteer Yishuv fighters led by David Ben-Gurion celebrated as the Jewish Agency declared Israel an independent nation in accordance with the 1947 U.N. partition plan. The difficult months of fighting ahead were only eased by the knowledge that the volunteer army was fighting for its new and independent nation. U.S. President Harry S. Truman immediately recognized Israel as a sovereign and independent nation forging a bond between our two great democracies that has been one of mutual support and friendship ever since.

The people of Israel have, over the 60 years since Israel has become an independent state, established a vibrant democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices. Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, and is among the world's leaders in the high-tech industry. Israel has also bravely defended itself from numerous military attacks and acts of terrorism.

I stand with my colleagues and with my nation to celebrate the 60 years of a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect. I am a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 322 that was introduced by Speaker PELOSI to celebrate this important milestone. On this occasion I also want to highlight the efforts that Israel and its leaders have made to make a lasting peace with its neighbors. I would like to extend my

warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLADY E. LAUGHLIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gladly E. Laughlin, who passed away on February 23, 2008.

Gladly E. Laughlin played an integral role throughout the Laughlin, Nevada community where she was an outstanding civic leader and dedicated community advocate. Gladly was an educator with the Clark County School District for over twenty years, where she was a dedicated advocate for the children of Laughlin, expanding education programs and social services. Her efforts have inspired generations of students to achieve academic excellence. Among her many community achievements and honors, Gladly was most proud of her service to her community as the principal of the William G. Bennett Elementary School from 1993–2005.

Gladly was also a member on the Laughlin Town Advisory Board and served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of the Colorado River, the Laughlin Family Resource Center, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Colorado River. Gladly was also actively involved with the Laughlin Community Church. She volunteered with the church's choir, praise-worship teams, and served as a spiritual leader and mentor.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of Gladly E. Laughlin for her many years of leadership and community service to the Laughlin community. Those who have worked with her on a professional and personal level agree that Gladly has done profound work throughout the community. Gladly was a wonderful individual and a great force on behalf of the people of Laughlin. She is survived by her husband of over 40 years, Pat Laughlin and her two sons Rob and Jim Laughlin. She will be profoundly missed.

DEREK RIEMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Derek Riemer who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Derek Riemer is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Derek Riemer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Derek Riemer for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING FARAH JOOMA

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farah Jooma on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Jooma's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Farah Jooma worked with Parkland Hospital and researched alternatives more medical insurance. She created a brochure that she distributed to healthcare clinics throughout the Dallas Fort-Worth area. She also held seminars discussing ways of trying to improve medical insurance.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Farah Jooma in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

ALFERD WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alferd Williams, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Williams, a sharecropper's son, who never got the chance to go to school, is now learning to read. Alferd is an inspiration to his teacher and classmates, and a prime example of someone setting their mind to accomplish a goal and then achieving success.

In 2006, Alferd joined a first-grade class at Edison Elementary School, to fulfill a promise he made to his mother and himself. That promise was that he would learn how to read. Mr. Williams is now in his second year at Edison Elementary School, and plans to stay in Ms. Alesia Hamilton's first-grade class until he completes his GED.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Alferd Williams, who is a true inspiration for all that know him, and all that have had the opportunity to hear of his inspirational story. Mr. Williams is living proof that with faith and persistence, you can achieve any goal. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Williams in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
YVONNE BRAITHWAITE BURKE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Los Angeles County Supervisor

Chair Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, who is retiring this year after an exceptional fifty years in public service.

As an African American and a woman, Supervisor Burke has broken through professional barriers her entire career. She was the first African American woman elected to the California State Assembly, where she served from 1966 to 1972. She was the first African American woman from California elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she represented California's 37th Congressional District from 1972 to 1978. She was the first African American woman appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, the first woman to chair the Congressional Black Caucus, and the first Member of Congress to give birth while in office. She was the first female and African American to serve on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

I had the pleasure of serving with Supervisor Burke in both the California State Assembly and the House of Representatives. When my wife Janet and I visited Washington the year I decided to run for Congress, Supervisor Burke, who had been elected just 2 years before, went out of her way to make us both feel welcome. Supervisor Burke and I served 4 years together in Congress, and it was my good fortune to be able to continue to work with her when she left to be a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. I have greatly valued our many years of friendship, the experience, wisdom, and grace she brings to every problem, and her strong commitment to public service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Supervisor Burke's extraordinary 50-year career and extensive record of accomplishments. Janet and I wish her and her family the very best for the future.

WIND FARMS IN THE WATERS OF
THE GULF COAST

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Texas is now the number one wind energy state in the country, producing more power from wind than any other state. Texas is also the first state to allow wind energy production offshore, energy, which could not only power our homes and businesses, but also pay for the education of our children.

The Gulf Coast currently has unused oil equipment in its waters. Those structures now have a new purpose, as wind turbines utilize oil and gas platforms off the Texas-Louisiana coast in the first U.S. offshore wind energy farm. The shallow waters of the Gulf make economic sense for wind farms. Wind farms consist of turbines that harness clean energy and offer another option outside of natural gas. The coastline has a far-reaching continental shelf, in some areas extending 80 miles, while having water depths less than 150 feet. Texas, long a major player in the oil and gas industry, is now a major player in wind energy. In this region, the best wind for generating energy blows mid-day, when electricity demand is the highest. Therefore, the electricity generated from wind farms off the Texas coast will be highly valued by utility companies.

Wind Energy Systems Technology (WEST), conceived by Herman Schellstede and Harold Schoeffler, will be lining nearly 74,000 acres of water with wind farms, which includes part of my district, in the waters off of Jefferson County, on state owned land. Construction of the wind farms should begin in 2009. Once completed, the offshore wind farm will produce enough electricity to provide power to about 40,000 homes. By comparison, an equal amount of electricity would require about 20.7 million barrels of oil, or 6.5 tons of coal to produce. By not burning these fossil fuels to create this amount of energy, the wind farm will displace approximately 2.7 million tons of carbon dioxide each year.

It is in our best interest to research and develop alternative energy sources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, in order to become more energy independent. With natural gas depleting, wind farms should become more abundant in the coming years, as wind power becomes more competitive and the technology more efficient. Wind is a clean energy resource with substantial environmental benefits and offers one of the lowest marginal costs of production. This renewable energy means renewable revenue. Some have reported that wind energy provides more jobs per dollar invested or per kilowatt-hour generated, than most conventional resource options. With total installed U.S. wind power capacity now over 16,800 megawatts or enough to serve the equivalent of 4.5 million average households, wind was the second largest source of new electrical capacity in the Nation, behind only natural gas, for the past 3 years.

Wind power is part of our country's sustainable energy solution, and I applaud WEST for their foresight and innovation.

TRIBUTE TO MUJES DE
ECELENCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mujes de Ecelencia, one of the most prominent women's organizations in my congressional district, for embarking upon a remarkable educational campaign outreach on health care issues to women in Roma, Texas. The informational campaign outreach, which finished on April 18, 2008, is a mixture of private-public partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and agencies that all strive to bring awareness to important issues that affect women and their families.

Mujes de Ecelencia has consistently worked to provide the latest information about drug and alcohol treatment, family counseling, tobacco awareness, and other health care matters to women in south Texas since 2002. I applaud Mujes de Ecelencia for bringing together businesses, organizations, and local agencies in the informational campaign marketed towards women's health care issues, and for their continued work in advocating for women in south Texas.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Equal Pay Day, which was yesterday, April 22, 2008. Equal Pay Day was originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. The day, observed on a Tuesday in April, symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. Because women earn less, on average, than men, they must work longer for the same amount of pay. In other words, the average American woman must work 16 months to earn what a man did in 12. The wage gap is even greater for most women of color.

President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law in 1963, but the wage gap between men and women has been closing at a very slow rate. In 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. In 2006, women earned 77 cents to the dollar.

The wage gap exists, in part, because many women and people of color are still segregated into a few low-paying occupations. More than half of all women workers hold sales, clerical and service jobs. Studies show that the more an occupation is dominated by women or people of color, the less it pays. Part of the wage gap results from differences in education, experience or time in the workforce. But a significant portion cannot be explained by any of those factors; it is attributable to discrimination. In other words, certain jobs pay less because they are held by women and people of color.

Democrats are taking action to address the wage gap. The House has already passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores basic protections against pay discrimination by rectifying the May 2007 Ledbetter v. Goodyear Supreme Court decision that overturned precedent and made it much more difficult for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims. The Senate is scheduled to consider this legislation this week. The House is also considering the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by providing more effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. I strongly support both of these measures.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue, but a family issue. The wage gap hurts everyone—husbands, wives, children, and parents—because it lowers family incomes that pay for essentials: groceries, energy bills, doctors' visits and child care. Furthermore, 41 percent of women supply their families' sole source of income.

It is estimated that if we do nothing, it will take until 2057 to close the pay gap. To force women and their families to wait nearly another 50 years to receive equal pay for equal work is absolutely unacceptable. I pledge to continue the fight for pay equity until all Americans, regardless of gender or race, receive equal pay for equal work.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF REVEREND WALT PARRY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Reverend Walt Parry, of Fresno, California. After nearly 25 years with the non-profit organization Fresno Metro Ministry where Reverend Parry succeeded in serving the needs of the local community, he retired this past January.

During his tenure at the Fresno Metro Ministry, Reverend Parry aided thousands of deserving local residents with his passion for excellence and strong ethical drive. I have had the pleasure of working with him frequently and his dedication to the community is to be commended, especially in the areas of public health, cultural diversity and disadvantaged advocacy.

Reverend Parry was instrumental in the creation of the Community Food Bank, an organization that helps distribute food to people in need throughout California's Central Valley. Healthy nutrition was a paramount concern for the Reverend, who both fought against the obesity epidemic as well as the lack of nourishment in the area. Other notable achievements of Reverend Parry include better access to healthcare, clean air, improved nutrition, and a deep respect for multiculturalism in our Valley communities.

Throughout his career in the area, Reverend Walt Parry has proven to be a highly effective administrator who was always committed to excellence in public service. As he gets ready to spend much more time enjoying retirement as well as supporting the social causes he is passionate about on a more personal level, I wish him continued success and best of luck for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 322, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from California, Speaker of the House, Representative NANCY PELOSI and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative HOWARD BERMAN for their leadership on this important issue.

Today, Israel celebrates its 60th birthday, or its Day of Independence. This is a very special day for this country, where citizens live in a constant state of unknown, but are united for their love for the state. In addition to birthday greetings, I want to wish Israel the best of luck in its continued attempts to make peace this upcoming year.

Israel was created in 1948; it took President Truman only 11 minutes to recognize the new Jewish State. Since then, it has come to exist as the only true democracy in the Middle East. Israel and the United States have many of the same foundations of government: Freedom of religion, free speech, basic human rights, the rule of law and being a nation of immigration and diversity. Israel has provided a unique opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland. In addition, it is a home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and attracts visitors every year.

Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history. The people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens.

I want to applaud the Government of Israel for successfully working with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations. I have had the privilege of visiting Israel, and hearing firsthand how the government is taking great strides to ensure peace for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation recognizes the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirms the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel. I am proud to join 201 of my colleagues in cosponsoring this important legislation. For these reasons, I support H. Con. Res. 322 and urge all Members to do the same. The United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect. The people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally. I hope this friendship continues to grow and blossom for decades to come, as Israel settles itself in a firm place on our global map.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I support the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week. National Public Works Week is celebrated for a full week each May to celebrate our public works professionals and the important work they do to keep our country running smoothly.

May 18 through 24, 2008 will recognize the many duties that public works professionals—those who design, build, operate, maintain and

protect transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities—perform to enhance communities and our Nation.

Public works keep our society functioning: providing buildings that house vital government offices, and giving our country rail, highways, airports, and public transit to move goods and passengers.

Similarly, public works help maintain public health: Providing systems for waste and sewage disposal, while supplying us with crucial water for our homes, businesses, and agriculture. Pipelines safely transport natural gas and hazardous liquids through 2,300,000 miles of pipelines throughout the country.

Many people take for granted our public works, recognizing their importance only when problems are encountered. When water supply is not efficient, when infrastructure crumbles, and when accidents in moving transportation occur, we are then forced to reflect on what needs to be invested in the larger public works sector of our economy.

The “2006 Status of the Nation’s Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance” report by the Department of Transportation confirms that investment in the Nation’s highway, bridge, and transit infrastructure has not kept up with the growing demands of the system.

Likewise, our country is in need of critical investment in water infrastructure. It was more than 1 year ago, at the beginning of the 110th Congress, that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed three key water infrastructure bills: H.R. 569, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007; H.R. 700, the Health Communities Water Supply Act of 2007; and H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. These bills later overwhelmingly passed the House, and we continue to wait for our counterparts in the Senate to take similar action.

I strongly support investment in our Nation’s infrastructure, as well as the men and women who keep our public works, quite simply, working.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA
HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On April 26, 2008 a group of 100 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home state of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our Nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID
SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5613, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008.

I believe that any society can be judged on how they treat the most vulnerable—namely seniors, children and the disabled.

This measure places a 1-year moratorium on Medicaid regulations and cuts put forward unilaterally by the administration that could have a devastating effect on each of those groups.

Some of these cuts would slash access to rehabilitation services, decrease services for foster care and abused children, limit services to the elderly, and persons with developmental disabilities.

In fact, these cuts could have a disastrous impact in Michigan on the 21,000 developmentally disabled and 27,000 children with medical conditions—the very people who need our help the most.

With Michigan’s struggling economy, the high price of gas and home heating, and an overall increase in cost of living, many families need access to these services.

The proposed cuts to the Medicaid program have the potential to cost the State of Michigan over 15,000 jobs and the loss of \$732 million dollars in Federal funding in the first year alone. And it’s set to get worse over the next 5 years resulting in an estimated \$3.9 billion in Federal cuts.

Delaying these draconian cuts for 1 year will give Congress the opportunity to work together on these issues so that we can better serve those in need across our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN “JACK”
J. WALSH, JR. FOR OVER 35
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE GLAZIERS AND GLASS-
WORKERS LOCAL 1044 OF BOSTON

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man whose professional life has been dedicated to the skill of his trade and commitment to his fellow union members. John “Jack” J. Walsh, Jr. is a remarkable individual with a long and illustrious career in the Glaziers and Glassworkers Local 1044 of Boston, Massachusetts.

Jack joined the Glaziers and Glassworkers Union on March 12, 1973. Throughout his tenure with Local 1044, Jack always exhibited a commitment to excellence in his trade and dedication to ensuring the welfare of his fellow union members.

Jack has been equally dedicated to serving his local community. Notably, Jack served as a Boy Scout Troop Leader and is currently a

member of both the Weymouth Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2899 and the Loyal Order of Moose in Braintree.

Despite his various accomplishments, Jack has always taken the greatest pride in his roles as a devoted husband and father. For the past 32 years, Jack has had the enormous pleasure and tremendous good fortune of being married to his beloved wife, Patty, and together, they are the proud and loving parents of Jonathan and Gregory.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the Floor of the House today to join with Jack Walsh’s family, friends and Brothers and Sisters of Labor to thank him for over 35 years of remarkable service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Jack’s distinguished career and wishing him good health and God’s blessing in all his future endeavors.

THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Our voices, as well as those of Armenian-Americans across the nation, are essential in the effort to bring needed attention to such a historic tragedy. The Armenian-American community has made tremendous contributions to our country, and their efforts and passion will help ensure that those who lost their lives will not be forgotten.

Today, we pay tribute to the memory of those who died, reflect on all those who have suffered from such prejudice, and vow to raise awareness so that such an atrocity never occurs again. As a member of the Armenian Caucus and a cosponsor of the genocide resolution, I will keep fighting to ensure that the Armenian Genocide is appropriately recognized.

It is a shame that we have not learned from our mistakes in the past regarding genocide, but it is not too late to heal these wounds and also help end atrocities occurring as we speak. With the Olympics taking place this year, it is my hope that all nations can come together and play a constructive role in ending violence in places like Darfur. In the spirit of the Olympics, we must come together as one and make clear that we all stand with the world against genocide and human rights abuses. It is our duty to end this human suffering, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Washington, DC, to promote healing and peace throughout the world.

I am also very proud that my fellow Rhode Islanders have been actively involved in calling attention to this issue, and I urge them to continue to make their voices heard. As an ardent supporter of Rhode Island’s Armenian-American community throughout my public service career, I join my colleagues today in honoring the victims of the genocide by paying tribute to their memory, showing compassion for those who have suffered from such prejudice, and never forgetting the pain that they have endured.

H. CON. RES. 323, EXPRESSING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 323, expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day. I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague PHIL GINGREY of Georgia for introducing this important piece of legislation. This legislation recognizes an important initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be.

National Health Care Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness for the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important decisions. The Federal Patient Self-Determination Act requires that all Medicare-participating healthcare facilities inquire about and provide information to patients on Advance Directives; it also requires these facilities to provide community education on Advance Directives (42 C.F.R. §489.102). All healthcare facilities are required to: provide information about health care decision-making rights; ask all patients if they have an advance directive; educate their staff and community about advance directives; not discriminate against patients based on an advance directive status.

It is estimated that only a minority of Americans have executed advance directives, including those who are terminally ill or living with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses. Advance directives offer individuals the opportunity to discuss with loved ones in advance of a health care crisis and decide what measures would be appropriate for them when it comes to end-of-life care. The preparation of an advance directive would advise family members, health care providers, and other persons as to how an individual would want to be treated with respect to health care. Forty-two percent of Americans have had a friend or relative suffer from a terminal illness or coma in the last 5 years and for a majority of these people and 23 percent of the general public, the issue of withholding life sustaining treatment came up. An overwhelming majority of the public supports laws that give patients the right to decide whether they want to be kept alive through medical treatment. By more than eight-to-one (84 percent–10 percent), the public approves of laws that let terminally ill patients make decisions about whether to be kept alive through medical treatment. One of the most striking changes between 1990 and 2005 is the growth in the number of people who say they have a living will—up 17 points, from 12 percent in 1990 to 29 percent now.

Patients and families are often not fully informed of the relevant risks and potential benefits of artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH).

In addition, financial incentives and regulatory concerns promote the use of ANH in a manner that may be inconsistent with medical evidence and with the preferences of patients and their families. Because ANH is associated with uncertain benefits and substantial risks, it is essential to ensure that decisions about its use are consistent with the patient's medical condition, prognosis, and goals for care. Therefore, decisions about ANH require careful consideration of its risks and potential benefits.

Establishing National Health Care Decisions Day will encourage health care facilities and professionals as well as chaplains, attorneys, and others to participate in a collective, nationwide effort to provide clear, concise, and consistent information to the public about health care decision-making, particularly advance directives. As a result of National Health Care Decisions Day, recognized on April 16, 2008, more Americans will have conversations about their health care decision, more Americans will execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TEYRAN "TY"
PATTERSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Teyran "Ty" Patterson, an American hero, who recently passed away on May 30, 2007, in the line of duty as Texas Game Warden for Johnston County.

Ty was born on November 18, 1978, to Joe and ViAnn Patterson in the City of Seguin in Texas. He was a devout Christian and lived the values of his faith through his work as a Texas Game Warden. Ty was a 1998 graduate of Seguin High School and earned a criminal justice degree in 2004 from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

After graduating from Southwest Texas State University, Ty began work as a Texas Game Warden. He was committed to law enforcement and to the community by providing public service. Ty was a young, ambitious, caring man—no one was a stranger to him. On May 30, 2007, Ty answered the call of duty, without regard to his personal safety or well-being, to assist his fellow officers and a family in their hour of need. It was during this call that he lost his life.

Ty is survived by his parents, Joe and ViAnn Patterson, his sister, Crystal Patterson, his brothers Joe Patterson, Jr. and Demetrius Hall, and his grandmothers Thelma Smith and Katie Smith. He will be greatly missed by his family and by those who had the great fortune to know Teyran "Ty" Patterson.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Teyran "Ty" Patterson, and I thank you for this time.

EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as Americans mark Earth Day, they can also mark the new direction Congress has begun to reverse the failed energy policies of the past, committing instead to clean, and renewable energy for the future. It may have taken the president almost 8 years to acknowledge global warming, but this is a problem that Congress did not wait to address.

Congress passed the historic and bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to begin to reduce American dependence on foreign oil, respond to the global warming crisis, grow our economy, and lower energy costs. The Act will save 5.3 billion metric tons in energy-related CO₂ emissions from 2008–2030 and reduce oil consumption by 2.4 million barrels a day—almost a 25 percent reduction over today's usage.

The Congress has taken the steps the current Administration has failed to take. It pleases me that on this Earth Day in 2008 we can acknowledge and celebrate the positive direction we are taking in addressing our energy use, climate change, and its impact on our economy.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SHELL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California, Congressman JIM COSTA, to honor Joseph Claude Shell, a longtime Bakersfield political and community leader, who passed away on Monday, April 7, 2008, at the age of 89.

Joe was born in La Conner, Washington in 1918 and moved with his family to San Diego at the age of 2. Joe attended the University of Southern California and played 3 years of varsity football, which included two trips to the Rose Bowl, and being the captain of the undefeated 1939 team. While Joe was studying law at USC, he served his country during World War II as a civilian flight instructor (having learned to fly at the age of 14) for the U.S. Army Air Corps at Cal Aero and Lancaster from 1942–1943, and eventually joined the Navy in 1944 serving as a senior pilot in the air transport service.

After the war, Joe lived in Los Angeles and worked in the Kern County oil fields as an independent oil producer and drilled many of the wells around Bakersfield. In 1953, Joe won election to the California State Assembly, representing the 58th District, which covered the Wilshire district of Los Angeles. A major political figure in California politics, he served for a decade in the State legislature, 4 of those years as the Assembly Republican Leader, fighting for free enterprise, low taxes, and limited government. During his time in the Assembly, Joe authored the State Scholarship Act, which gave thousands of young people

educational opportunities at public and private universities. While in the Assembly, he met Mary K. Husking, who he married in 1970. In 1962, Joe ran for governor and though he did not win the Republican nomination, he remained active in State and local politics. Joe and Mary K. returned to the oil business and drilled wells in the Deer Creek area, near Porterville. In 1989, Governor George Deukmejian appointed Joe to the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, where he served for several years before stepping down.

Joe's death is a great loss for the Bakersfield community, but he will always be remembered for his years of service in the U.S. Armed Forces and California State Assembly, always leading by principle rather than rhetoric, and for his integrity and interest in seeing government perform honestly and with accountability at all levels. Joe is survived by his wife, of 38 years, Mary K. who currently resides in Bakersfield, and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren Barbara, Joe, Jr., David, Harold, Diane, Lynn, Geoffrey, Robert, Steven, Stacey, Brian, Dana, Ryan, Nicole, Emily, Jennifer, Matthew, Mark, Justin, Ellie, and Thomas.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SHELL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CONGRATULATING ART MONK AND DARRELL GREEN UPON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AND COMMENDING THEM FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate two of the Nation's beloved icons of professional athletics. On the same day, Art Monk and Darrell Green were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. To say that Washingtonians and regional residents are serious about their football would be a classic understatement. This region's strong tradition and love of football owes much to Art Monk and Darrell Green. Along with the Nation, we love and respect them not only for their world class excellence as athletes, but for the way they played the game. Both men are revered, not only as athletic greats, but because of their work out of the limelight.

Art Monk was a wide receiver drafted in the first round by the Washington football team, the Redskins, in 1980. Monk's quickness and strength despite his size made him a top notch wide receiver. He wasted no time distinguishing himself, even in his first season, setting a team rookie record with 58 receptions and becoming a unanimous all-rookie selection. For nine seasons throughout his 16-season career, 14 of which he spent with Washington, Art Monk had 50 or more receptions. Monk became the first receiver for our home team to produce three consecutive 1,000 yard seasons, going on to have five 1,000 yard seasons in his career. Monk set the then league record for catches in a season with 106 catches, the most consecutive games, with at least one reception with 164 games, and the most career receptions with 820. Along the way, he also became the first Washington team player to catch 70 or more passes in three consecutive seasons, finishing his career with 940 catches. Monk was twice named All-Pro and All-NFC, selected three times to play in the Pro Bowl. He was a major part of the Redskins' dominance in the 1980s, and boasts three Super Bowl victories.

Darrell Green, an All-Pro cornerback, was one of the greatest cornerbacks of all time.

Over his 20-season career with the Washington football team, Green set many standards. He was a first-round draft pick in 1983 and made an immediate impact, scoring the very first time he touched the football on a 61-yard punt return in a preseason game, starting in all 16 regular season games, and being honored as runner-up for the Associated Press NFL Rookie of the Year Award. Known for his great speed, Green achieved a high level of success as a cornerback, recording an interception in a record 19 straight seasons, a career-best of five interceptions in each of three seasons, and a club record 54 interceptions, which translated into 621 yards and six touchdowns. Green was also a formidable punt returner, averaging nearly 12 yards a return as he recorded 51 career returns for 611 yards, in addition to the team record longest fumble return of 78 yards. Darrell Green is a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1990s, boasts two of the team's Super Bowl victories, was named All-Pro four times and was voted to seven Pro Bowls.

Beyond their star-quality football careers, I have come to know both men as exemplary citizens through their excellent work in the community. Art Monk helped found The Good Samaritan Foundation on MLK Avenue, SE with his Redskins teammates Charles Mann, Tim Johnson and Earnest Byner to "Prepare Youth for Leadership in the Community and the Workplace." Their center for youth most in need of service is under construction in the city's lowest income ward. He has also lent his expertise and testimony to my own Commission on Black Men and Boys. Darrell Green started the Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation that helps youth to maximize their own potentials, focusing on four core principles: values, education, home, and community.

Art Monk and Darrell Green have led exemplary lives as men and as athletes. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating both of these role models for reaching the height of their professional careers by being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

SUPPORT FOR FAIR PAY FOR WOMEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support fair pay for women.

Women are an integral and vital part of the United States workforce. However, there exists a wage gap between men and women. Forty-one percent of women are the sole breadwinners in their families. April 22, 2008 is Equal Pay Day, which highlights the need for equal pay for American women. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 as a public awareness event by the Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE). The purpose of this day is to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. Equal Pay Day is observed on a Tuesday in April to represent how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year.

It is preposterous that, in 2008, women earn less money than men for doing the same work. This wage gap is even greater for women of color. In this age of rising fuel costs,

which impact what we pay for food, clothing, utilities, etc., women should receive the same pay as their male counterparts for doing the same job. In 2006, women earned 77 cents to the dollar. However, when women shop at the supermarket, they do not receive a 23-percent discount on food nor do they receive a discount on their utilities, medical care copayments or any other of life's necessities.

Something must be done to close this gap. I support the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007 and hope my Senate colleagues will support equal pay for all American women.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the American Society of Hematology (ASH) on its 50th anniversary and to recognize some of the many contributions made by hematology researchers.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with ASH researchers over the past several years while seeking to expand federally funded stem cell research. Highlighting the significance of embryonic stem cell research will remain one of my top issues as millions of Americans continue to suffer from debilitating diseases that could potentially be helped through this live-saving research.

Hematologists have pioneered the field of stem cell research for over 40 years with innovative discoveries about adult bone marrow stem cells and how they could be used to cure human diseases. Today, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is an important approach for treating blood and bone marrow disorders as well as certain types of cancer. The earliest work with HSCT began in the 1950s. By the 1960s this treatment was successfully used in patients with end-stage leukemia. Subsequent research in this area has led to improved transplantation techniques and improved survival rates for a number of diseases.

ASH was one of the first professional medical or scientific organizations to issue a statement in support of all avenues of stem cell research. Today, ASH members are poised to contribute to research on embryonic stem cells that has the potential to lead to the next generation of important therapies for a broad range of diseases.

I look forward to continuing to work with ASH and its members in the future and congratulate the Society again on its 50 years of research contributions.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID
SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Med-

icaid Safety Net Act. This important bill would place a moratorium on seven harmful medicaid regulations. Medicaid provides valuable services to some of our nation's neediest children and families and these regulations would severely impact state budgets and ability to continue to offer the same level of services. If these regulations are implemented, California could lose up to \$12.5 billion in Federal Medicaid funds over the next 5 years. In a growing recession, this is the last thing we should be doing. Instead, we should be helping states help those who need access to the medicaid services.

To succeed, every child needs access to the best opportunities. A quality education can help these children succeed, but too many children come to school with other issues that need to be addressed: They haven't had breakfast or a meal since the before the weekend, they have been sick and need medication but lack health insurance, or they need some kind of additional help and therapy because of disabilities. These children depend upon the coordination of the state and schools to connect children to these services.

A school nurse can help connect a student and his or her family to Medicaid services and help him or her through the enrollment process to ensure that the student can receive asthma medication, eyeglasses, preventative care, or emergency healthcare to come to school and focus on learning. One of these regulations would cease the Federal Government's reimbursement to States for this service. Less outreach will mean fewer children will receive Medicaid services. As we move deeper into an economic recession, more families may lose jobs and health insurance. More children will need access to Medicaid, not less. Schools are a great place to find these children and walk their families through the process to enroll in Medicaid to ensure no child will go without important medical care.

Under the Individuals With Disability Act (IDEA), schools are required to provide specialized services to students with disabilities, such as speech and physical therapy. The schools have been allowed to be reimbursed by Medicaid for the cost in transporting the students to these various services. One of the new regulations would eliminate this reimbursement. This would be a terrible burden upon these schools that are already short on funds. We need to help schools get students the education and services they need, not make it more difficult for schools to help these students.

These are just two of the seven Medicaid regulations that will do more harm than good and two examples of why we need to pass H.R. 5613 and place a moratorium on these regulations for the time being. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5613.

A TRIBUTE TO GERTRUDE
"TRUDY" LEONE MCSHANE
CATTERMOLLE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Trudy Cattermole, who was a loving wife, a great mother, an adored

grandmother, tireless and faith-filled community leader and devoted and treasured friend to me and countless others. "Trudy" Leone McShane Cattermole was born April 12, 1927 and she passed away peacefully two days after her birthday on April 14th in Atherton, California surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by John, her husband of 54 years; her children, Gregory, Jay, and Theresa (Nani); her niece, Joanne McShane Costa; ten grandchildren, Kyle, Drew, and Michael Cattermole, Emily and Abigail Cattermole, Christina, Chase, Taylor, Tovac and Cael Daniels; and her great niece and nephew, Claire and John Costa.

Above all else, Trudy cherished her family. She was totally devoted to her husband and to her children and grandchildren. She was graceful, generous and had a terrific sense of humor. As Trudy's family attests, she shared her trust in God with all her children, from the grace said at each meal, to her attendance at every baptism and first communion and to her devotion to the Sisters at Oakwood. She taught all of them about faith in action and she lived her faith by being a friend and to giving back to her community.

Trudy served as chairperson of the Flower Ball. She gave to her children's schools serving in many capacities, including chairman of the Bellarmine Fashion Show, board member of the Bellarmine Woman's Mother's Guild. She served as president and board member of the Oakwood Auxiliary, and board member and officer of the Serra Club, volunteered at the St. Francis Center, St. Anthony's Dining Hall and helped found Sandwiches on Sundays at St. Pius Church. She was a Eucharistic minister at St. Pius Church where she was married and attended services for over 60 years. She was recognized as a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. She was a second generation San Franciscan. She attended Sacred Heart High School in Menlo Park, and Lone Mountain College in San Francisco.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Gertrude "Trudy" Leone McShane Cattermole. Through her many contributions to her family, friends, church, and community she has left a lasting legacy of love, faith and social consciousness which will never be forgotten and for which will live forever with all of us blessed to have had her in our lives.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 322, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel on May 14th. Since its inception, Israel has been a close friend and ally of the United States, promoting democratic values in the Middle East. As we celebrate this anniversary, let us reflect upon the struggles that have come in the past and that are to come in the future. From them we can glean a sober hope for the continued peace and prosperity of Israel and the United States.

Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, was aware of hostility to the goals of Zionism, but sought that Jews and Palestinians live in peaceful coexistence in his newly formed state. Unfortunately, radicalism and resistance for this peaceful goal only hardened. The many conflicts that ensued, from the Six Day War to the Second Intifada, has made life difficult for all Israelis.

Today, Israel is taking serious steps in hopes of reaching a peace agreement with the Palestinians. In the West Bank, Israel is removing roadblocks and evacuating outposts in order to strengthen Palestinian President Abbas so the Palestinian Authority is capable of implementing a treaty. Unfortunately, in Gaza the militant group Hamas is engaged in the broadest and most significant military buildup in its history with help from Syria and Iran. Hamas is restructuring more hierarchically and using more and more powerful weapons, such as longer-range rockets against Israel's southern communities.

The most serious threats that Israel faces are external. Two weeks ago, Iran announced that they had dramatically increased its capacity to enrich uranium with the installation of 6,000 new centrifuges. In doing so, Iran continued to defy not only the United States but the international community as well. The United States and Israel must continue to provide a united front against this regime, while still reaching out to its people, in order to protect the citizens of both countries and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

With the Arab population in Israel estimated to outnumber Jewish Israelis in the near future, building a lasting peace has never been more necessary to the continued existence of Israel. Fortunately, Israel's economy is strong and growing and the Israeli government is committed to a peaceful solution based upon political realities.

Our greatest hopes lay in the strength of the alliance between Israel and the United States and in the inherent rightness of the democratic values that both countries promote. That is why I am proud to stand in support of H. Con. Res. 322 and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Israel, and I look forward to the continued role as an advocate for democracy in the Middle East.

GEORGE BAYLESS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize George Bayless, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Bayless was recently recognized by the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, for his innovation in developing fishing products.

George developed ENVIO-WEIGHTS material for fishing tackle and other weights out of a desire to reduce lead in the environment. This innovative product earned Mr. Bayless the recognition from the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. Mr. Bayless is involved in many other endeavors, including efforts to provide a fishing experience to disabled veterans.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing George Bayless, whose in-

novations in fishing equipment have been truly exceptional. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Bayless in the United States Congress.

DAVID G. BURNET: FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, often referred to as the birthplace of Texas, the communities of Lynchburg and Highlands in east Harris County stand as a constant reminder of the rich history which has shaped the State. Initiatives such as "Project Star" now labor throughout the area to enlighten Texans of their past by highlighting historically significant locations. On March 15, 2008 the culmination of more than 175 years of progress, came to fruition with the opening of the David G. Burnet Park.

Serving as the first President of the Republic of Texas, David G. Burnet was selected to his position by the Revolutionary Convention of 1836. Before his presidency, he purchased 3.7 acres of land from the Lynch family just off of what is now called Burnet Bay, in south Harris County.

This area from 1830 became the first president's Texas homestead. Prior to Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia taking on the project to renovate the park, all that existed to mark David G. Burnet's homestead was a small stone Plaque. More than two million dollars were raised to develop David G. Burnet's homestead, including research for archeological authentication of the area.

Thanks to these much needed improvements, visitors to the historical park will find amongst the playground equipment and future ballpark, educational storyboards illustrating the locations past. These storyboards include information ranging from historical facts about Burnet to recounting life in the 1830's. In the near future "Project Star" and Commissioner Garcia plan to reconstruct, at the park, the first president of Texas' home.

Although David G. Burnet called his 3.7 acres almost 170 years ago home, Texans can still find a connection with him and others of his time from the park. The educational opportunities offered by a visit to David G. Burnet Park are invaluable to all and will serve as a reminder of the areas past for generations to come.

And that's just the way it is.

H. CON. RES. 328, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE WITH RESPECT TO ANTI-LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER NAME-CALLING, BULLYING, AND HARASSMENT FACED BY INDIVIDUALS IN SCHOOLS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, on April 25, 2008, the 12th annual National Day of Si-

lence will be observed. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 328, which supports the goals and ideals of the National Day of Silence.

Despite many misperceptions out there, the reason this day exists is to bring attention to the harassment, bullying, and outright abuse towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) students at schools and campuses across our country.

Four out of five LGBT students experience harassment at schools. Recent studies show that two of the top three reasons students are harassed in school are actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender expression.

The goal of the National Day of Silence is to make schools safer and supportive for every student, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. It's important to recognize that hundreds of thousands of students of all beliefs, backgrounds, and sexual orientations participate in this day.

Harassment and abuse affects all students, and hopefully through this inclusive, collective effort can this hatred be quieted, and eventually silenced.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 100th anniversary of U.S. Army Reserve. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United States Army Reserve, we are afforded the opportunity to recognize the honorable men and women who currently serve and those who have served our Nation in the past.

The origins of the Army Reserve began in 1908 when Congress established a group of 360 doctors, the Medical Reserve Corps, to provide our Nation with a band of trained medical officers during a time of war. From that moment forward, the Army Reserve has played a critical role in securing the safety of our troops and the advancement of our military's missions during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, the Iraq war, the global war on Jihadist terror, and other tumultuous times in our Nation's history.

More than 190,000 soldiers have been mobilized to support the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. Currently, there are more than 26,000 soldiers serving on active duty in support of military operations.

Today, Army Reserve soldiers continue to answer their patriotic call of duty in a variety of ways these include defending our Nation against terrorist attacks, providing humanitarian support and relief operations during national disasters, providing combat service support to warfighting brigade combat teams, and offering unparalleled support to countries around the world as they strive to establish the freedom we often take for granted. The list goes on, and so does the Army Reserve's devotion to our Nation.

Army Reserve soldiers, or citizen soldiers, make up more than half the Army's combat support, and a quarter of its mobilization base expansion capability. The assistance they provide includes combat support, combat service

support, peacekeeping, nation-building, and civil support, and is instrumental in the progress that our military makes each day.

The Army Reserve forms the backbone of our Nation's military. During today's ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army Reserve's 100th anniversary, two young men from the Colorado's Fifth District, Sergeant Erice J. Dwelle and Sergeant Otto Earl Searan Jr., re-enlisted to once again serve our Nation. It is an honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Army Reserve today. I want to thank every single Army Reserve soldier, both past and present, for the patriotism they have displayed through the years and down to today.

INTRODUCING THE SHINGLES PREVENTION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Shingles Prevention Act.

Many of us have had shingles or know of others, especially over the age of 60, who have. In 2006 a new vaccine was created that prevents occurrence of shingles or dramatically reduces the symptoms and pain of shingles. Experts agree that adults over the age of 60 should receive this immunization.

Half of us will experience shingles by the time we are 80. Shingles is a painful skin rash often accompanied by fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach. What is more pressing is that one in five shingles patients will endure post-herpetic neuralgia—severe pain lasting much longer than the rash itself. The pain can be so intolerable that patients are house-bound, and there have been cases of suicide from the disease. Shingles is most common among seniors because the immune system wanes with age, making Medicare beneficiaries the best candidates for the vaccine.

Since its development in 2006, the shingles vaccine has been recommended for adults 60 years or older by the Centers for Disease Control. However, current Medicare Part D coverage of the vaccine is insufficient. Not all beneficiaries are enrolled in Part D or another drug prescription plan. More important, seniors are facing high out-of-pocket costs due to a lack of coordination among doctors, pharmacies, and Part D plans. For example, there is no established direct billing method between doctors and plans for Part D vaccines. Because of this, beneficiaries typically must pay the full price up front, which results in out-of-pocket costs that limit access to those that need the vaccine the most—our seniors.

The billing problem, the resulting low utilization of the vaccine, and costly storage requirements are enough to keep many doctors from stocking the vaccine. When doctors do not stock, beneficiaries' only alternative is to obtain the vaccine from pharmacists. But many states do not allow pharmacies to administer Part D vaccines, so the beneficiary has to take the vial from the pharmacy back to the physician office. Thus, a senior who is thinking about getting vaccinated would have to go first to the doctor's office for a consult, then to the pharmacist, then back to the doctor for the shot.

Not surprisingly, many seniors are not getting immunized against shingles. This low utili-

zation rate contributes to the half a billion dollars of treatment costs per year and, for hundreds of thousands of seniors, many weeks spent suffering from a disease that could have been prevented.

The Shingles Prevention Act will move shingles vaccine coverage to Part B—thus treating it in the same manner as the flu vaccine under Medicare, simplifying the process for physicians and beneficiaries, and lessening the cost burden for our seniors. This is a common sense and cost effective way to increase access to high quality health care for our seniors, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY THE LANDSAT SPACECRAFT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 891, celebrating 35 years of space-based observations of the earth by the Landsat spacecraft and looking forward to sustaining the longest unbroken record of civil earth observations of the land, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Colorado, Representative MARK UDALL. This important legislation recognizes the longest running enterprise for acquisition of imagery of Earth from space.

The program was initiated in 1966 as the Earth Resources Observation Satellites program but was later changed to Landsat in 1975. On July 23, 1972, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched Landsat 1, originally called the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, as the first civilian Earth observation satellite to study the Earth's land cover and monitor natural resources. Since 1972, the Landsat program has continued to collect data without interruption through the successful launches of Landsats 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, and has established the longest and most comprehensive record of global land surface data ever collected.

The year 2007 represents 35 years of continuous collection of space-based observations of the Earth's land cover by the United States Landsat satellites, which have enabled increased scientific understanding of the inter-relationships of the Earth's land cover, energy balance, and biogeochemical processes as well as the realization of numerous societal benefits from the applied uses of the data. The consistency of Landsat data over three decades of acquisition offers opportunities to compare land cover changes over time. Landsat greatly enhances remote sensing science that helps give rise to a global change research plan and international initiatives to study the Earth system. Landsat images are also invaluable for emergency response and disaster relief. Advances made in data reception and processing permit rapid access to imagery in times of natural or human-made disaster. Within hours of data acquisition, the USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science provides relief organizations

worldwide with satellite images for disaster response, as well as image-derived products that incorporate information on population density, elevation, and other relevant topics.

Landsat data illuminated for the first time how human decisions led to large-scale impacts on the environment. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program has recognized Landsat and its 3 long-term data record as instrumental to the study of climate and environmental change, noting that Landsat data are invaluable for studying the land surface and how it affects and is affected by climate. The scientific and societal benefits of the Landsat program and its 35-year data record illustrate the significant return on the public investment in Earth observations and the need for continued support for this critical national asset.

Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to all of the dedicated scientists, engineers, and program personnel who have contributed to the successful development and operation of the Landsat program over the past 35 years. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me and continue to support the Landsat program and data record so as to sustain Landsat's value to scientific research, especially, the study of global climate change, and to the myriad applied uses of the data for societal benefit.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

I am just a few years older than the State of Israel, and I remember, as a little Jewish girl, the pride and joy my family felt that a Jewish state was a reality. My parents expressed tremendous relief that there was now a place in the world safe for Holocaust survivors, and a haven for all Jewish people wherever we may live.

We watched with amazement as an arid land turned green as it was transformed into farms and towns. We ourselves planted trees in Israel by buying a tree certificate and gave it to our family friends on every special occasion, so we could participate in making the desert bloom. We all stood a bit taller, and every Passover, the holiday of freedom, was sweeter because Israel wasn't just a longing of our people, but a real country on the map.

That pride burns brightly today. Sixty years later, Israel has weathered war and terrorism and remains a strong, thriving democracy—the only democratic nation in the Middle East and America's closest friend and ally in the region. Israel has become a resource for the United States and the world because of her groundbreaking discoveries in the areas of medicine, energy, clean water, and security technologies.

On her 60th anniversary, the vibrant Jewish community in the Chicagoland area is proud of Israel's pioneering leadership and the strong United States-Israel bond, and works hard every day to strengthen and refresh that relationship.

I will always support the State of Israel, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "aye" on H. Con. Res 322.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act. This important bipartisan bill extends a moratorium until April 1, 2009 on seven Administration-imposed Medicaid regulations that if implemented, would severely reduce Federal Medicaid funding.

Without the moratorium, Medicaid funding to States for vital programs and services would be cut by \$18 billion over the next 5 years. These cuts include restrictions on Medicaid payments for graduate medical education (GME), rehabilitation services, and outpatient hospital services, among other services.

It would be irresponsible to think about cutting funding to academic medical centers and residency training programs when we currently face a shortage of physicians. If these cuts were allowed to go into effect, we would be unable to provide necessary medical services to many people who depend upon Medicaid. Constantly cutting funds to the very services which keep our fragmented, non-system of health care afloat is inhumane and nonsensical.

The tactic of underfunding Federal programs in an attempt to undermine their effectiveness demonstrates the Administration's lack of commitment to the programs that faithfully and effectively serve the American people.

Mr. Speaker, passage of H.R. 5613 is simply a necessity. We must halt the underfunding of important Medicaid programs. I wholeheartedly support the passage of H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act.

PRESS FORCES A RETREAT IN THE WAR ON TERROR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, recently coalition forces were forced to retreat in their campaign against insurgents in Afghanistan when the British Ministry of Defense extracted Prince Harry from his front line duties. As third line in line to the British throne, Harry carries a certain amount of importance about him, especially when he is risking his life to make the lives of the British people and their allies safer. Military service is not something new for the Royal Family, as they have a long tradition of serving in the armed forces, including direct combat duties. But why did the British military, one of the most disciplined and well respected organizations in the world, have to pull back? The answer was that it was betrayed by friendly fire in the press.

An Australian magazine entitled *New Idea* leaked Harry's mission in Afghanistan in late February. While the magazine has apologized, it broke an informal agreement with the British Ministry of Defense that called for a global media blackout on the story. Harry had been successfully calling in coalition air-strikes against Taliban insurgents. But with his identity and location compromised, Harry's security became jeopardized because of the possibility that he and his command would become specifically targeted.

Here is a "New Idea" for the press: exercise some common sense. While it is important that we as a democracy stay abreast of what is occurring in the military, there is a fine line where we have to stop and let the military do its job. This example involving the Prince of Wales shows the great security issue involving the press and the military. Not all information can be given to the general public, and when supplied with details, the press needs to be responsible and exercise basic common sense.

Here is some advice for the press to follow when given military information. Ask the question, "Will this information possibly endanger lives and missions?" If the answer is even close to being "yes," then it is probably not best to publish it. What would happen if our high ranking generals and civilian leaders had their locations and missions revealed? We would have to completely rethink our strategy and decisions. Missions and lives would become compromised, just as they did for the British with Prince Harry. We need to let the military do its job without interference.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues as a proud original cosponsor of this important resolution.

I congratulate our brothers and sisters in Israel on this important milestone—the 60th anniversary of becoming an independent nation. From the first hour on that first day, Israel and the United States began a relationship based on democratic values, friendship and respect that continues to this day.

Over the years, Israel has developed into a thriving society, a world leader, and an active democracy. Welcoming people from Russia to Ethiopia, Israel has become a refuge for those persecuted for thousands of years.

In fact, many of my constituents have traveled or lived in Israel. In 2005, we made history when Atlanta became the first U.S. city in the Southeast to have non-stop direct flights to Tel Aviv.

I, too, have a personal connection with the people of Israel—like me, they are descended from survivors. The atrocities of the holocaust must never be forgotten. Every day, we must recommit ourselves to never allow this history to be repeated. We have overcome so many trials and hardships, but there is still so much farther to go.

It is my hope that one day, together we will be able to celebrate peaceful relationships and coexistence with all the countries in the Middle East. And I hope that this peace comes long before another 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest congratulations to the Israeli people on this historic day.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 322 recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Today marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. For the past six decades the United States and Israel have forged a special relationship based on our shared history of overcoming oppression, tyranny and hatred. This bond has strengthened over time through our common interest in peace, prosperity, and democracy.

As we commemorate this anniversary, we must also recognize the challenges that face Israel. Security and prosperity will only be reached when a resolution to the conflict between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples is achieved.

It is critical that we engage both Israel and the Palestinian leadership to find a way forward. It is also critical that we support initiatives that create greater dialogue, cooperation and economic development between Israelis and Palestinians. I have been a strong supporter of Seeds of Peace, which has a camp located in my district, which brings Arab and Israeli youth together to dispel stereotypes and build lasting trust within the regional leaders of tomorrow. I have also been a strong supporter of the Middle East Regional Cooperation program and other programs that create people-to-people reconciliation and coexistence in the Middle East.

Israel is friend and ally of the United States and it is my honor to recognize the 60th anniversary of its founding. True support for Israel lies in standing with our friend as its civilians face down indiscriminate rocket attacks and in pushing for a permanent peace that provides security and dignity to both Israelis and Palestinians.

On this special occasion it is important to commemorate the past, but also to look toward the future. As our two Nations enter our seventh decade as allies, we must continue to actively pursue our common dream of peace, freedom and security—a dream that I believe is shared by all peoples of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my firm support of H. Con. Res. 322.

REMARKS ON THE OBSERVANCE
OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today, as we observe the 93rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I stand with the millions around the world who have called for greater recognition of this atrocious event in world history.

Madam Speaker, my mother, now 92 years old and still working outside the home, is a first generation Armenian-American who lost much of her family in the atrocities of 1915. She and many of my Armenian brothers and sisters have long waited for validation from our

country and the international community of simply acknowledging the events that took place and were well documented at the time. Growing up, I heard stories about our relatives who were lost. As I got older, I read the telegram sent by our Ambassador Henry Morgenthau to the Secretary of State on July 16, 1915:

“Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion.”

We are told by some to forget the Armenian Genocide, to get over it. But to forget any incident like this is tantamount to allowing it to happen again.

The facts before us are not in dispute. The reason we still debate this is not to determine

if a genocide took place but rather, to determine if we have the political backbone to stand up for the truth.

Madam Speaker, the Members of this House disagree on many things in the course of our work. But it is the things we agree on that bind us together. Freedom. Democracy. Opportunity. And the repudiation of any act of genocide, ethnic cleansing or subjugation.

We condemn the Nazi concentration camps, the Soviet gulags, the Khmer Rouge's killing fields and the current and lasting tragedy in Darfur. We wouldn't think of excusing or ignoring any of these. To do so would be unconscionable. Why then, do we allow our nation's official reaction to the Armenian genocide to be little more than a shrug?

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 25

9 a.m.
Armed Services
To receive information relating to the treatment of detainees. SR-222

APRIL 28

4 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William J. Burns, of the District of Columbia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs), Janice L. Jacobs, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Bureau of Consular Affairs), and T. Vance McMahan, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador. SD-419

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the REAL ID Act and the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, focusing on the impact of implementation. SD-342

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-222

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's toxic chemical policies. SD-406

Finance
To hold an oversight hearing to examine trade functions, focusing on customs and other trade agencies. SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, focusing on penalties related to workplace safety. SD-430

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine living on the street, focusing on finding solutions to protect runaway and homeless youth. SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine challenges and opportunities of Europe's Black population, focusing on hate crimes and discrimination, anti-immigration and national identity debates, and growing security concerns. B318, Rayburn Building

10:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine improving consumer protection in subprime home lending. SR-253

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, to be Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, James B. Cunningham, of New York, to be Ambassador to Israel, Richard E. Hoagland, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, George A. Krol, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, and Joseph Evan LeBaron, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, all of the Department of State. SD-419

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-222

3 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-232A

4 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-222

APRIL 30

9 a.m.
Judiciary
Constitution Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine secret law and the threat to democratic and accountable government. SD-226

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Energy and the U.S. nuclear weapon non-proliferation efforts. SD-192

Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-232A

10 a.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-222

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold closed hearings to examine the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)/Space Programs. S-407, Capitol

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-222

3 p.m.
Appropriations
Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Product Safety Commission. SD-192

Aging
To hold hearings to examine making government a model for hiring and retaining elderly workers. SH-216

3:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kameran L. Onley, of Washington, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Jeffrey F. Kupfer, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. SD-366

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the United States Capitol Police, and the Library of Congress. SD-138

MAY 1

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009. SR-222

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the adequacy of state and federal regulatory structures for governing electric utility holding companies relating to the repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. SD-366

10 a.m.

MAY 2

MAY 20

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of G. Steven Agee, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, William T. Lawrence, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, and G. Murray Snow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the military build-up on Guam, focusing on the impact on civilian community, planning, and response.

SD-366

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009.

SR-222

MAY 7

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending benefits legislation.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of the airline industry, focusing on the impact of the Delta/Northwest airlines merger.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Territorial Energy Assessment as updated pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58).

SD-366

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending health care legislation.

SR-418

CANCELLATIONS

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine electronic voting systems, focusing on top-to-bottom inquiries by Secretaries of State.

SR-301