

counselor and champion focusing on business results. She is an advocate for diverse leadership executive talent. Edie has worked to support more than 200 corporate organizations, and she has worked with more than 100 CEOs in support of diversity practices. Talent recruitment and retention are her number one issue.

"To say thanks to SCORE is easy. We know SCORE to be perhaps the most important program that the government has created with millions of donated hours of counseling in communities across America," says Edie Fraser.

On a personal note, Edie has been a dynamic and energetic force for women in business and diversity nationwide. A resident of Washington, D.C., Edie is active in many worthy causes. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of SCORE and Advisory Board of the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy. She received the Big Brothers Public Service Award and was the recipient of the Big Brothers Most Outstanding Service Award for outstanding service to youth. Edie received the United States Peace Corps award and Peace Corps Princess with others from State Department and AID. Her commitment to mentoring and community service is an inspiration to all of us striving for equality and the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

THE DAILY 45: A SUBURBAN  
YOUTH SNAPS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday May 1, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. And while needless gun-related deaths continue to take place at a savage pace on Chicago's streets, including my district, we're not the only community in crisis.

The 45 people who die somewhere in America come in all shapes, sizes, colors and zip codes. In February of this year, in suburban Cockeysville, Maryland, 16-year-old Nicholas Browning confessed to taking his father's 9 mm Smith and Wesson and walking through his home and taking the lives of both his parents and his two younger brothers. According to his attorney, young Nicholas, an avid Sunday school student, apparently snapped for reasons unknown. One can only imagine what might have been if whatever demons he was confronting did not lead him to grab a gun.

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!"

HONORING DR. LASLEY FOR 45  
YEARS OF SERVICE AT BUFFALO  
RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday May 1, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lasley for

his 45 years of service at Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church. Tennessee has been called the "Volunteer" state by the great efforts of our citizens during The War of 1812. Since The War of 1812 people like Dr. Lasley continue to show pride, dedication and service through volunteer efforts.

Dr. Lasley's wife Ellen, daughter Laurie, and sons Torrey and Calvin all embody the same giving and service oriented characteristics their father has bestowed upon them.

Since Dr. Lasley began his tenure in 1963, he grew the church from an average of 135 people per Sunday to over 766 per Sunday today. This is a true accomplishment and highlights his devotion to Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church and the parishioners who call that church home. What's even more is that Dr. Lasley helped spur a new donations program that has grown to receive about 1.7 million in total offerings in the year of 2007.

Dr. Lasley and Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church have continually shown their dedication to the community by leading its followers in five building construction programs. He has also emphasized missions and has even built a mission program that supports over 100 missionaries and mission agencies throughout the world.

Dr. Lasley's strong commitment to God is evident in the numerous hours devoted to studying His Word, preaching it, and encouraging others to become involved. Dr. Lasley has been a strong advocate for faith and has encouraged his church to live the same way leading by example.

Since Dr. Lasley took over Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in 1963, he has been a true friend, asset, and noble man to Tennessee's First District. I ask that my colleagues join me today honoring Dr. Lasley for his great devotion, dedication, and service to Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church and Tennessee's First District.

HONORING MR. HERB RUBEN

**HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Herb Ruben, who is being honored by Peninsula Counseling Center at its 95th anniversary celebration on May 13, 2008. Herb Ruben has served with extraordinary devotion and dedication for the past 50 years as executive director of Peninsula Counseling Center, the largest non-profit community mental health center in Nassau County, New York.

Mr. Ruben has received many awards and has served in many capacities, always striving to strengthen and enhance the lives of individuals of all ages, to strengthen family life and to contribute to the social-psychological well-being of the community. He has served as past president of the Council of Family Service Agencies in New York State. He is the recipient of the Joseph M. Sokol Memorial Award from the Five Towns Community Chest; the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the New York Public Health Association, Long Island Region; and the Henry Brill Professional Award from the Nassau County Department of Mental Health for "outstanding achievements and leadership with the Mental

Health community of Nassau County." In addition, he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Mr. Ruben has been a columnist with the South Shore Record where his articles "Within the Family" have appeared in the paper for more than 30 years.

Again, I wish to congratulate Herb Ruben and thank him for the leadership and direction he has brought to Peninsula Counseling Center, as its executive director. For 50 years, he has helped to make it the outstanding organization that it is.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PLOTINSKY

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Plotinsky who recently left the House of Representatives to take a position with the Department of Justice.

Mr. Plotinsky served in the Office of the General Counsel for 10 years, first as a law clerk while he was a student at Georgetown Law School and, since 2000, as an Assistant Counsel.

Mr. Plotinsky provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Our staff came to rely on his expertise and guidance in connection with many of their investigative and oversight activities, as well as in the Committee's interactions with the other branches of the federal government.

Over the years, Mr. Plotinsky played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives, and he served the House with great distinction. I know that he will serve the Department of Justice with that same level of distinction.

On behalf of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I thank him for his many years of devoted service, and extend to him our very best wishes for his continued success.

HONORING SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS CONNOR  
DANTZLER AND CHRISTOPHER  
ANDERSON

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor two young students from my district who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer community service by the 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Connor Dantzler of Damascus has just been named one of the top honorees in Maryland. An eighth-grader at John T. Baker Middle School, Connor is being recognized for his "Health through Humor" program. He has distributed over 5,000 joke books to patients,

their families and caregivers at hospitals and care centers throughout Maryland. In addition to delivering books to participating hospitals and health care centers, Connor spends time with patients and their loved ones. "I've shared a smile and positive moment with a lot of people," said Connor. "I hope that these efforts have made a difference to those who really needed something to laugh about." I am sure they did.

Christopher Anderson, a sophomore at Westminster High was named a finalist and will receive a bronze medal. I heartily applaud Christopher for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live by renovating an outdoor break area for the Association for Retarded Citizens of Carroll County to make it accessible to disabled residents. Inspired by his uncle who has Down syndrome, he recruited more than 40 volunteers and raised \$3,000 for the project. Christopher and his volunteers removed old rock, built special picnic tables, replaced wooden sidewalks and planted trees and shrubs in order to make the area handicapped-accessible. It will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of others for years to come.

Young volunteers like Connor and Christopher are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. The dedication and commitment by Connor Dantzer to sick hospital patients and Christopher Anderson to disabled individuals should fill all of us with pride that America's community spirit is strong. On behalf of the residents of Maryland's Sixth District I am honored to publicly thank and congratulate Connor and Christopher for their volunteer efforts. You give us hope and confidence that America's future will be led by a new generation of inspiring and compassionate leaders.

#### TAIWAN'S LEADERSHIP ON GLOBAL ISSUES

### HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, in the 6½ years since terrorists attacked the American homeland, our government has undertaken a series of steps to prepare for, deter, and ultimately stop future attacks from occurring. In advancing these objectives, it has been essential to partner with like-minded nations to ensure security and freedom for all our citizens. In this regard, I would like to take the opportunity to express the appreciation of many in the Congress to President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan as he prepares to leave office later this month.

During President Chen's time in office, Taiwan has demonstrated time and again its commitment to global security and cooperation. Such actions have been forthcoming despite the preoccupation of an existential threat facing it from across the Taiwan Strait.

After 9/11, Taiwan immediately opened its airspace to U.S. military aircraft transiting Pacific routes to Afghanistan. It subsequently partnered with our government and others in the Container Security Initiative, which seeks to prevent illicit cargo from reaching rogue entities around the world. Furthermore, Taiwan has committed over \$100 million to recovery

efforts in Afghanistan, making it one of the most significant contributors to coalition efforts there.

Recognizing that global security can be advanced in a variety of ways, Taiwan has been a leader in addressing public health issues internationally. Struck by SARS in 2003, Taiwan acted swiftly to share information with other nations that helped limit its spread. Soon thereafter, Taiwan's experience in tackling avian flu was again made available to the international community in order to deter that contagion's deadly proliferation.

Beyond these multilateral efforts, Taiwan has also developed one of the most extensive bilateral development assistance programs in the world. For instance, it has established 36 long-term technical missions in 30 partner countries, focusing on capacity building, agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, livestock, handicrafts, medicine, transportation, industry, mining, electricity generation, printing, vocational training, trade and investment. Taiwan allocates approximately 100,000 tons of rice annually as humanitarian foreign aid. After the South Asia tsunami occurred in December 2004, the Taiwanese government provided \$50 million in initial relief assistance, and cooperated with international non-governmental organizations in additional relief efforts. It also provided more than 355 tons of relief materials to tsunami-affected countries.

These and other measures undertaken by Taiwan over the past several years are to be commended. Under the leadership of President Chen, his government has served as a model for others seeking to play a constructive role in the international community. I encourage continued leadership by Taiwan as a new president prepares to assume office, and can assure him of America's enduring partnership in these efforts.

#### CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the House of Representatives for taking action on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program today.

The Platte River has undergone extensive development for irrigation, power generation, and municipal water uses. The river system today contains 15 major dams and reservoirs and provides water for about 3.5 million people.

Existing facilities on the river provide hydroelectric power, irrigation water, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. Substantial portions of the economies of the Platte River basin States—Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska—are based on water supplied by the Platte River.

In 1997, the three States and the U.S. Department of the Interior signed an agreement to pursue a basinwide cooperative recovery implementation program to improve and maintain habitat for four threatened and endangered species which use the Platte River.

The legislation we are discussing today is designed to implement a multi-state coopera-

tive approach to assist in the conservation and recovery of habitat for the Platte River's endangered and threatened species and to help prevent the need to list more species under the Endangered Species Act. The bill would also provide regulatory certainty to the cities and industries which rely on flows of the river.

As we move forward with the implementation of the program, positive and negative economic impacts must be assessed and considered in order to minimize adverse effects of the recovery efforts.

This legislation is the first step of many to protect and recover species and provide long-term water use for our communities.

#### THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF THE POPE'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today an article that was written by a constituent of mine, Thomas J. Carty, PhD, Associate Professor of History and American Studies at Springfield College in Springfield, MA. His article is entitled, The Risks and Rewards of the Pope's Visit to the U.S., and it outlines the history of the interaction of politics and religion as it related to papal visits in the past. I thought it was a pertinent piece in light of Pope Benedict's recent visit to Washington, DC and New York City.

THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF THE POPE'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

(By Thomas J. Carty)

Pope Benedict XVI's meeting this week with a U.S. president during an election year demonstrates how Americans increasingly tolerate the confluence of religion and politics. While George Bush does not face the prospect of election this year, his meeting with Pope Benedict may affect the presidential campaign. Bush's policies have both delighted and disappointed the Pope. The president's opposition to legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research earned him praise by John Paul II, but this pope also critiqued Bush and his father for resorting excessively to war in Panama, the Persian Gulf, and Iraq. For Bush, this meeting offers an opportunity to burnish his legacy as a defender of traditional values.

Bush can maximize benefit from this meeting by studying the successes and failures of Lyndon Johnson, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton. Johnson's 1965 decision to greet Pope Paul VI strained traditional diplomatic protocol because no pope had previously set foot in the United States. Prior to the pope's landing in New York in order to deliver a speech at the United Nations, therefore, Johnson arranged elaborate plans to avoid appearing biased in favor of the Catholic Church. The president agreed to wait in New York's Waldorf-Astoria hotel for Pope Paul VI to visit Johnson's suite so that the president could deny having initiated the unofficial summit. Johnson certainly hoped such appeals to the pope might have helped his standing among Catholics in an eventual run for reelection. Yet the pope's public criticisms of U.S. bombing in Southeast Asia contributed to Johnson's later decision to withdraw from the 1968 presidential campaign.

By contrast, Pope John Paul II boosted Ronald Reagan's political popularity among